



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful****Uses of Outer Space**

Legal Subcommittee

Forty-second session

Vienna, 24 March-4 April 2003

Agenda item 9

**Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of  
Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal  
Subcommittee at its forty-third session**

**New agenda item on practice in registering space objects of  
States and international organizations**

**Working paper submitted by Austria, Australia, Canada, France,  
Germany, Greece, India, the Netherlands, Sweden, Ukraine, the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the  
United States of America**

1. Pursuant to the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space of 1975 (General Assembly resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex, the "Registration Convention"), the United Nations established a Register to record information, as provided by launching States, on space objects launched into Earth orbit or beyond. At the time, three reasons were advanced to justify the establishment of a centralized Register: traffic management, safety and identification of space objects. Over the years, the Register has served a useful function with regard to each of those concerns.

2. Since the establishment of the Register, activities in space have dramatically increased and changed in nature to include an increasing number of commercial activities. While the Registration Convention remains both useful and relevant, it has become increasingly evident that the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects on the Register is widely divergent.

3. The Legal Subcommittee could play a useful role in promoting adherence to the Registration Convention with respect to the registration of space objects. Through a multi-year work plan, the Legal Subcommittee would examine the practice of States and international organizations in recording space objects on



national registries and the Register established under the Registration Convention with a view to identifying common elements. The following work plan is proposed:

- Year one: Invitation to Member States and international organizations to present reports on their practice in registering space objects and submitting the required information to the Office of Outer Space Affairs for inclusion on the Register.
  - Year two: Examination by a working group of the reports submitted by Member States and international organizations in year one.
  - Year three: Identification by the working group of common practices and drafting of recommendations for enhancing adherence to the Registration Convention.
  - Year four: Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
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