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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-second session
Vienna, 8-19 April 2013
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
**Review of international mechanisms for cooperation
in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space**

**Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the
peaceful exploration and use of outer space: information
received from Member States**

I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-first session, in 2012, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed to include “Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space” as an item under a five-year workplan. In accordance with the recommendation of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, para. 179), Member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were invited to provide information on the range of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms they utilize for space cooperation.
2. The present document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of replies received by Austria, China and Germany and will be also made available in addendum to document A/AC.105/C.2/102, in all official languages of the United Nations.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.288.



II. Information received from Member States

Austria

[Original: English]
[4 April 2013]

Austria cooperates in space matters particularly through the following organizations:

- United Nations;
- European Space Agency;
- European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites;
- European Southern Observatory;
- European Union (relevant programmes: GMES Initial Operations/COPERNICUS, Galileo, EGNOS, 7th Framework Programme for Research).

Furthermore, Austria encourages the cooperation of relevant Austrian institutions and companies with foreign partners by providing financial assistance to specific projects.

China

[Original: Chinese]
[2 April 2013]

International cooperation is at the same time the successful experience of mankind's exploration and use of the outer space and the fundamental guiding principle for countries in conducting their activities in the outer space. China, as a developing country committed to the long-term peaceful exploration and use of the outer space, has participated in international cooperation of mutual benefits with its fruits and responsibilities commonly shared.

In terms of bilateral cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space, China has developed a mechanism for international cooperation, which is under the guidance of bilateral governmental agreements, supported by the platform of joint committees and operated in accordance with the outline programme for cooperation. Up until today, China has signed 68 bilateral agreements for space cooperation with 24 countries and international bodies, including Russia, Pakistan and Brazil. These documents have become the legal basis for China to engage in cooperation with other countries. The agreements mentioned above provide that the space agencies of the two parties are the competent bodies to implement the agreement, and formulate joint committees for space cooperation as the main platform charged with the specific responsibility to develop the outline programme for cooperation and to identify the key areas of cooperation and projects.

Currently, China is engaged in deep-going international cooperation in the area of remote sensing, telecommunication, satellite for scientific experiments and their land-based facilities and equipment, launching service, data exchanges and their terrestrial application, space science, manned space flights and the exploration into

the deep space through joint development, commercial cooperation, technological exchanges and personnel training and exchanges, and has successfully completed a series of projects including those concerning the China-Pakistan earth resources satellite and the China-Europe Twin Satellites.

China has also devoted its efforts to assist more of those countries that have yet acquired space capabilities to operate their own space assets in order to share the benefits of the peaceful use of the outer space by supplying high performance satellites and providing launching services that cover both high and low orbits and carrying services in combination of construction of land-based facilities and personnel training. China has successfully completed through in-orbit delivery a number of projects including those concerning a telecommunication satellites of Venezuela and Pakistan respectively.

In addition to the above, China has, in terms of multilateral cooperation, used the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space and other relevant international organizations as the main platforms to participate in an in-depth manner the international work on the exploration and use of the outer space by playing an active part in those inter-governmental, inter-agency and non-governmental organizations and bodies including the Inter-agency Debris Coordination Committee, International Charter Of Space and Major Disasters, and has joined other countries in the efforts devoted to the resolution of issues of space debris, threats from near-earth objects, etc.

Going forward, the Chinese government is ready to work with other countries to explore actively for an effective mechanism of cooperation for issues such as space debris which influence the long-term sustainable development of the outer space, and will continue to engage on a voluntary and equal basis in international space cooperation which is open, mutually benefiting and non-discriminating.

Germany

[Original: English]
[21 November 2012]

Germany welcomes the new agenda item under work plan “Review of the international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.” This subject is of high relevance and leads to a common understanding of the different mechanism of international cooperation. “Promoting international cooperation and understanding” is one essential goal of Article III Outer Space Treaty “in the interest of maintaining international peace and security”. Worldwide Cooperation in space is a reality irrespective of the degree of scientific and economic development and of political correlation.

Germany implements its international cooperation in space via the national space agency and related scientific institutions. The different projects lead to a worldwide network. In addition to the strong commitment to the European Space Agency (ESA), Germany conducts a major part of its space program by projects in bi- and multilateral cooperation. Germany hosts several international organizations such as EUMETSAT (European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological

Satellites) and ESA's European Space Operations Centre ESOC, both located in Darmstadt.

A further ESA site, the European Astronaut Centre EAC, is located on the premises of the German Aerospace Centre DLR in Cologne. DLR on its part has liaison offices in Paris, Washington, Brussels and, as of the beginning of 2013, in Tokyo.

Germany follows this practice of international cooperation with different legal instruments such as scientific and technical cooperation agreements on governmental and/or agency level. Under this framework, those general agreements pave the way for implementing agreements between scientific and industrial institutions which thereupon agree on concrete projects. These agreements are called e.g. Framework/Multilateral/Cooperation Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding. The basic principles agreed upon in those agreements are best effort, no exchange of funds, availability of appropriate funds, cross waiver of liability, distribution of intellectual property rights and ownership, amicable settlement of disputes and arbitration, registration of space objects to be launched under the respective project, coordination of press activities and applicable law.

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations, Vienna, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.
