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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 15-26 February 2016

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space: activities of Member States

I. Introduction

1. In the report on its fifty-second session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space recommended that the Secretariat continue to invite Member States to submit annual reports on their space activities (A/AC.105/1088, para. 27).
2. In a note verbale dated 27 July 2015, the Secretary-General invited Member States to submit their reports by 19 October 2015. The present document was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of a report received in response to that invitation.

II. Reply received from a Member States

Czech Republic

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The Czech Republic has had a long tradition in utilization of space for scientific purposes and is party to four of five United Nations treaties on Outer Space (except the “Moon Agreement”). Mostly thanks to international cooperation, several scientific payloads and sensors were developed, as well as small scientific satellites. These activities, taking into account the different economic and social context, were implemented mostly in scientific institutions with small industrial involvement and little economic consideration or sustainability.



Regarding the national space policy, the Government of the Czech Republic approved on October 27, 2014 the National Space Plan for the period 2014-2019 (NSP 2014). NSP 2014 is based on the achievements of the National Space Plan from 2010 and again represents a strategy upon which decision makers should decide on future involvement of the Czech Republic in space activities. NSP 2014 acknowledges the economic, social, political and security potential of the space activities and their importance for the national economy. The main objective of the NSP 2014 is to increase the international competitiveness and the technological and innovative level of the Czech Republic.

The National Space Plan for the period 2014-2019 can be downloaded at www.czechspaceportal.cz. (Direct download link: www.czechspaceportal.cz/files/files/NSP_2014_2019_ENG.pdf.)

Regarding the bilateral cooperation in space, Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka and French Prime Minister Manuel Valls signed the Treaty between the Czech Republic and France related to cooperation in the field of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes in 2014. It is the first international bilateral space Treaty which the Czech Republic concluded with an international partner. The main objective of that Treaty is to strengthen and flourish mutual cooperation between Czech and French institutions, scientists and enterprises in space.

European Space Agency and European Union

The Czech Republic, taking into account its location and size, considers the international cooperation to be the most efficient way how to support space science, space technology development and industrial cooperation. The Czech Republic has been inherently focusing its efforts towards its active involvement in the European structures, especially within the European Union (EU), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and the European Southern Observatory (ESO).

Concerning the further development of the space activities, the Czech Republic shares especially the ESA objectives, i.e. in pushing the frontiers of knowledge, increasing the competitiveness of industry and opening the wide range of opportunities of using the space activities in various domains of human activities.

The Czech Republic became the 18th ESA Member State in November 2008. The Czech Republic participates in ESA optional programmes which concern especially Earth Observation, Navigation and Telecommunications, Launchers, Space Exploration, SSA and also general space technology development programmes. Following the recommendation of the NSP 2014 and taking into account that the membership in ESA is the main tool for the Czech Republic how to develop its space activities and how to participate in space project, the Government of the Czech Republic approved on July 29, 2015 an increase of its financial contribution to the optional programmes of ESA by 30 per cent.

The Czech Republic is an EU Member State since 2004 and in this respect it participates in EU space programmes Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus. As an important achievement in the field of European and international cooperation the Czech Republic considers the decision of EU Member States from December 2010 to relocate European GNSS Agency (GSA) to Prague which happened in September 2012. GSA is responsible especially for security and marketing of

EGNOS and Galileo nowadays and in near future also for implementation of the programmes and exploitation of the systems. The Czech Republic cooperates with GSA very closely especially in establishing a suitable environment for GNSS application development.

Concerning the organizational framework of the Czech space activities, it should be noted that there has been no national space agency established in the Czech Republic so far. However, the Czech Government decided in 2011 that the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic was going to coordinate all space activities in the Czech Republic. The Ministry of Transport is also responsible for Czech membership in ESA, EU Space Policy and EU programmes as Galileo, implementation of the National Space Plan and space applications. Other ministries are represented on high level in the Minister of Transport's Coordination Council for Space Activities.

Space debris

Regarding the international cooperation in the field of space debris mitigation the Compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and international organizations was developed as a contribution of Canada, the Czech Republic and Germany to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2014. Nowadays the Compendium is maintained by the Office of Outer Space Affairs with its goal to inform States of the current instruments and measures that have been implemented by States and international organizations, and to assist those who wish to enact or develop similar standards in relation to this important topic. The compendium can be found at www.unoosa.org/oosa/es/COPUOS/Legal/debris/index.html.

Concerning the further development and involvement of national space debris mitigation capabilities, the Czech Republic actively participates in the activities of the Space Surveillance and Tracking segment of the ESA's Space Situational Awareness programme.

Remote sensing events

Two key events related to the international cooperation in the field of Remote sensing will be held in the Czech Republic in 2016. The 23rd Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and the Living Planet Symposium 2016, the biggest ESA conference on Remote sensing, will take place in mid-2016 in Prague. More information can be found at www.isprs2016-prague.com and lps.esa.int.