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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Sixtieth session
Vienna, 31 May–11 June 2021
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Capacity-building in space law

Capacity-Building in Space Law

Note by the Secretariat

At its fifty-eighth session, in 2019, the Legal Subcommittee recommended that States members and permanent observers of the Committee inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-ninth session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/1203, para. 140).

The present conference room paper contains a reply received from Albania, Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Spain, Tunisia and the United Nations Environment Programme.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.317.



Albania

[Original: English]
[Received on 27 January 2020]

Support for capacity-building in space law is welcome.

Algeria

[Original: French]
[Received on 21 February 2021]

With regard to capacity-building in space law, Algeria encourages all actions and initiatives of the Legal Subcommittee and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space aimed at strengthening international cooperation in the area of space law and related training for the benefit of developing countries.

Moreover, although there is no institution at the national level dedicated exclusively to the teaching of space law as a specialism, the subject is taught as a module at national universities and institutes.

It should also be noted that education and research relating to space technologies in Algeria have been given impetus by the establishment of the Doctoral School of Space Technologies and Applications, which has been attended by a sizeable number of postgraduate students.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[Received on 30 March 2021]

International cooperation in research, training and education in space law are essential in order to build the national capacity necessary to ensure that the increasing number of participants in space activities comply with international space law. A number of national, regional and international efforts to build capacity in space law are being undertaken by governmental and non-governmental entities.

Capacity-building in space law is a fundamental tool that should be enhanced through international cooperation. Greater support is needed from the Office for Outer Space Affairs and member States to foster both North-South and South-South cooperation to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the field of space law.

It would be very useful for the Office for Outer Space Affairs to organize a basic space law and policy seminar specifically targeting officials of Vienna-based permanent missions. The Office should be requested to explore the feasibility of holding such an event.

Morocco

[Original: French]
[Received on 7 April 2021]

Morocco considers capacity-building in space law to be essential for the development of national space activities. The Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should continue its efforts to promote international cooperation activities in this area. In this regard, it should be noted that Morocco provides special support to the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology by offering introductory courses on international space law and organizing workshops and seminars on that topic.

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[Received on 2 March 2021]

Pakistan participates in regional and international capacity-building events to develop and enhance understanding of space law and the contemporary space related legal challenges faced by the international community. Efforts have been initiated to build capacity in space law to address the legal complexities of carrying out national space activities while honouring national obligations derived from the outer space treaties signed by Pakistan. The Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific (RCSSTEAP) affiliated with the United Nations, situated at Beihang University, Beijing to augment capacity in the relevant fields of space including Space Law and Policy, proved invaluable for Pakistan in education, capacity-building and skill development of its human resource. In 2020, one official from Pakistan completed his Master's degree program in Space Law and Policy from Beihang University in cooperation with RCSSTEAP. One more official commenced his Master's degree program in Space Law and Policy in 2020 from the same university

Philippines

[Original: English]
[Received on 7 April 2021]

States members of the Committee are invited to inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-ninth session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/1203, para. 140). Further, the Legal Subcommittee invited States members of the Committee to encourage contributions at the national level for the future updating of the directory of education opportunities in space law (the present version is contained in a conference room paper A/AC.105/C.2/2019/CRP.9), including with information on available fellowships and scholarships (A/AC.105/1203, para. 139) The first capacity-building in space law was conducted by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) on 02 October 2020. The day-long session, which brought together over 300 participants from across the globe, featured speakers who discussed the Philippine space agenda, space diplomacy, science diplomacy and the national agenda, the Philippine treaty making process and international space cooperation. The webinar featured presentations from domestic experts from both the DFA and PhilSA, and international experts from the Office for Outer Space Affairs led by Director Simonetta Di Pippo, and from various universities in Australia, Austria, China, Japan, and the United States.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[Received on 15 February 2021]

In order to build the national capacity necessary to ensure that the increasing number of participants in space activities comply with international space law, international cooperation in research, training and education in space law is essential.

Furthermore, capacity-building in space law has proved to be a key tool that could be enhanced through international cooperation. It is therefore vital for the Office for Outer Space Affairs and States to provide sufficient support so as to foster North-South and South-South cooperation with a view to facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experience in the area of space law.

Spain wishes to express its interest in and support for the new project on legal advisory services, entitled "Space law for new space actors", launched by the Office

for Outer Space Affairs and its support for the organization by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of a basic space law and policy seminar specifically targeting officials of Vienna-based permanent missions, as announced at the session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held in 2019.

Tunisia

[Original: French]

[Received on 3 January 2019]

Tunisia intends to arrange for professionals from different space law bodies to receive training as offered by the United Nations at the regional centres for space science and technology education or in one of the United Nations States Members indicated in document A/AC.105/C.2/2016/CRP.8.

In May 2018, the National Centre for Cartography and Remote Sensing participated in the training session on space law held in Egypt by the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of the North African States.

The National Centre for Cartography and Remote Sensing participated in the conference and training session on space policy and law held by the Inter-Islamic Space Sciences and Technology Network and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs from 18 to 26 September 2019.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]

[Received on 4 June 2021]

UNEP is interested in building capacity related to the use of environmental geospatial information management to support the work of the Committee, with the purpose of developing international standards relating to the environmental impact of space activities, with particular regard to the issues of space debris and the pollution of space activities. In particular, UNEP is interested in public and public-private partnerships to build capacity, including through the UNEP Global Resource Information Database (GRID) network and in the capacity-building and partnership of the UN Geospatial Network of the UN Committee of Experts in Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in order to enhance cooperation in the global geospatial information field, thereby increasing awareness and access to information for States to develop and implement environmental standards in space.
