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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Sixtieth session**  
Vienna, 6–17 February 2023

## **Dedicated tools and practices for enhanced information-sharing**

### **Paper submitted by Germany and Luxembourg**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. In light of the critical role of information-sharing for safe and sustainable space activities, this paper emphasizes the need for dedicated tools and practices to enhance compliance with the existing legal framework, especially in connection with modern space activities of innovative nature and increased scale, in particular on the Moon and other celestial bodies.
2. The paper aims to begin an exchange of views on these topics in view of focused discussions to be conducted at the sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee. Submitting States support an open discussion and, when and where possible, the development of dedicated tools and practices to enhance transparency and information-sharing following international space law.

#### **II. Current legal mechanisms for information-sharing**

3. Transparency is firmly rooted in international space law and is primarily addressed by Article VIII and Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and the Registration Convention. While Article VIII of the Outer Space Treaty and Registration Convention regulate information-sharing about space objects and launches, Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty governs information-sharing related to space activities.
4. Information on objects launched into outer space are furnished by the relevant launching State under either the Registration Convention or Resolution 1721 XVI B. Such information is included by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in the United Nations Registry of Objects Launched into Outer Space, which is the cornerstone of the information-sharing system of space law. The implementation of these obligations is notably addressed in United Nations General Assembly resolution 59/115 of 10 December 2004 and United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/101 of 17 December 2007.



5. Under Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, States agree to share information about the nature, conduct, location and results of their space activities with the United Nations Secretary-General, as well as the public and the international scientific community. Upon receiving said information, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs shall distribute them immediately and effectively. At present, this is done by publishing received submissions in the *Index of Submissions by States under Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty*.

### **III. The importance of information-sharing for safety and sustainability**

6. Due to the innovative nature and increased scale of modern space activities, in particular on the Moon and other celestial bodies, it is becoming increasingly important to share fundamental information about them, in addition to the timely registration of the space objects involved.

7. The increased number of activities planned for the Moon provides a case in point. Sharing information on the nature, conduct, location and results of planned and ongoing lunar activities will prevent accidents, foster coordination and enable cooperation among them, ensuring the peaceful, safe and sustainable use of the Moon for the benefit of all.

8. In particular, the availability of organized information about space activities would increase transparency and enhance safety of space operations as well as strengthen coordination and enable cooperation. In addition, it may assist States to pay due regard and undertake appropriate international consultations as per the tenets of Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty.

### **IV. Dedicated tools and practices for enhanced information-sharing**

9. At present there is no standardized practices and process for sharing information under Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty. In light of the highlighted importance of information-sharing for peaceful, safe and sustainable exploration and use of outer space, there is a need to reflect and exchange within COPUOS about current practices and the need of dedicated tools enhancing and streamlining current processes.

### **V. Conclusion**

10. All Member States are warmly invited to share their views on dedicated tools and current practices for enhanced information-sharing, particularly under Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, in view of focused discussions to be conducted at the sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee.

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