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Standing Committee on the Status of International Agreements Relating to Activities in Outer Space

Chairman:

Andrei D. Terekhov, Ph.D. (Law), Moscow
Member, International Academy of Astronautics
Member, IISL Board of Directors (1994-2006)

ANNUAL REPORT – 2016

Background

At the meeting of the IISL Board of Directors held at Brighton, United Kingdom, in October 1987, the Board decided to create a standing committee of the Institute to prepare and submit at each annual Colloquium a report on the status of agreements relating to activities in outer space.

Institute members who can contribute substantively to the work of the committee are invited to serve on it. Membership is open to any interested IISL member. The committee members help collect, review and verify data concerning selected space agreements. Agreements of general global applicability or regional applicability are selected for reporting. Bilateral agreements are not included in the report. In general, the agreements included in the present report, and their status, are believed to be valid at least as of 1 January 2016.

Coded entries are used in the table as follows:

R	=	ratification, accession or succession
S	=	signature only
D	=	declaration of acceptance of rights and obligations

When no entry is made in a column opposite a state's name, that state has not signed that agreement, or is not a party to it, or that state has withdrawn from the agreement. Changes from last year are highlighted by “**”.

At the meeting of the IISL Board of Directors held at Paris, France, in April 1998, the Board decided that the report should also contain basic data concerning Declarations of Principles Relating to Activities in Outer Space adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

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AGREEMENTS INCLUDED

1. **1963 NTBT** - **Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water; done at Moscow on 5 August 1963; entered into force on 10 October 1963. (14 UST 1313; TIAS 5433; 480 UNTS 43)**
<http://www.state.gov/t/isn/4797.htm>
2. **1967 OST** - **Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies; done at Washington, London and Moscow on 27 January 1967; entered into force on 10 October 1967. (18 UST 2410; TIAS 6347; 610 UNTS 205)**
<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/>
3. **1968 ARRA** - **Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space; done at Washington, London and Moscow on 22 April 1968; entered into force on 3 December 1968. (19 UST 7570; TIAS 6599; 672 UNTS 119)**
<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/>
4. **1972 LIAB** - **Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects; done at Washington, London and Moscow on 29 March 1972; entered into force on 1 September 1972. (24 UST 2389; TIAS 7762; 961 UNTS 187)**
<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/>
5. **1975 REG** - **Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space; done at New York on 14 January 1975; entered into force on 15 September 1976. (28 UST 695; TIAS 8480; 1023 UNTS 15)**
<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/>
6. **1979 MOON** - **Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies; done at New York on 18 December 1979; entered into force on 11 July 1984. (18 ILM 1434; UN doc. A/RES/34/68 of 14 December 1979, Annex)**
<http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/>

7. 1971 ITSO - Agreement Relating to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) with annexes; done at Washington on 20 August 1971; entered into force on 12 February 1973. (23 UST 3813, 4091; TIAS 7532; 1220 UNTS 1220; 10 ILM 909, 946)
The current agreement entered into force on 30 November 2004, but was provisionally applied from 18 July 2001. It may be found at–
<http://www.itso.int>
8. 1976 IMSO - Convention on the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) with annex; done at London on 3 September 1976; entered into force on 16 July 1979. (31 UST 1, 135; TIAS 9605; 1143 UNTS 105; 15 ILM 233, 1051)
The current agreement, as adopted by the twentieth session of the IMSO Assembly and provisionally applied from 6 October 2008, may be found at–
<http://www.imso.org>
9. 1971 INTR - Agreement on the Establishment of the "Intersputnik" International System and Organization of Space Communications; done at Moscow on 15 November 1971; entered into force on 12 July 1972. (862 UNTS 3)
The Protocol on Amendments to the Agreement (4 November 2002), and the current Operating Agreement (18 November 2008) may be found at–
<http://www.intersputnik.com>
Not all the Parties to the 1971 Agreement have yet ratified the new Intersputnik Agreements. The 1971 agreement, with annexes, may be found at–
<http://www.intersputnik.com>
10. 1976 INTC - Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes (INTERCOSMOS); done at Moscow on 13 July 1976; entered into force on 25 March 1977. (16 ILM 1)
<http://www.jaxa.jp>
11. 1976 ARBS - Agreement of the Arab Corporation for Space Communications (ARABSAT); done at Cairo on Wednesday, 14 Rabi Al Akhar 1396 H., corresponding to April 14, 1976; entered into force on July 16, 1976. (Space Law and Related Documents, U.S. Senate, 101st Congress, 2nd Session, 395 (1990))
<http://www.jaxa.jp>

12. 1975 ESA - Convention for the Establishment of a European Space Agency (ESA) with annexes; done at Paris on 30 May 1975; entered into force on 30 October 1980. (14 ILM 864)
<http://www.jaxa.jp>
13. 1982 EUTL - Convention Establishing the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT); done at Paris on 15 July 1982; entered into force on 1 September 1985. (XI Annals of Air and Space Law 416 (1986); UK Misc. No. 4, Cmnd. 9154 (1984))
The current agreement entered into force 28 November 2002; it may be found at–
<http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/11/pdf/projets/pl2173.pdf>
The 1982 agreement, with annexes, may be found at–
<http://www.jaxa.jp>
14. 1983 EUMT - Convention for the Establishment of a European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT); done at Geneva on 24 May 1983; entered into force on 19 June 1986. (Federal Republic of Germany Bundesgesetzblatt, Jahrgang 1987, Teil 11, p. 256 (1987). This Convention has been published in the national bulletins of the ratifying States.)
<http://www.jaxa.jp>
15. 1974 BRUS - Convention Relating to the Distribution of Programme-carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite; done at Brussels on 21 May 1974; entered into force on 25 August 1979. (1144 UNTS 3)
<http://www.jaxa.jp>
16. 2012 SP - Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets; done at Berlin on 9 March 2012; not yet in force.
<http://www.unidroit.org/instruments/security-interests/space-protocol>

Note: All references in this document to <http://www.jaxa.jp> are specifically directed to–

http://www.jaxa.jp/library/space_law/contents_e.html

Treaty Status Table as of January 1, 2016

TREATY ---- STATE	(1) 1963 NTBT	(2) 1967 OST	(3) 1968 ARRA	(4) 1972 LIAB	(5) 1975 REG	(6) 1979 MOON	(7) 1971 ITSO	(8) 1976 IMSO	(9) 1971 INTR	(10) 1976 INTC	(11) 1976 ARBS	(12) 1975 ESA	(13) 1982 EUTL	(14) 1983 EUMT	(15) 1974 BRUS	(16) 2012 SP
Afghanistan	R	R					R		R							
Albania													R			
Algeria	S	R		S	R		R	R			R					
Andorra													R			
Angola							R									
Antigua and Barbuda	R	R	R	R	R			R								
Argentina	R	R	R	R	R		R	R								S
Armenia	R						R						R			R
Australia	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R								R
Austria	R	R	R	R	R	R	R					R	R	R	R	
Azerbaijan		*R*					R		R				R			
Bahamas	R	R	R				R	R								
Bahrain							R	R			R					R
Bangladesh	R	R					R	R								
Barbados		R	R				R									
Belarus	R	R	R	R	R			R	R				R			
Belgium	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R				R	R	R	R	S
Benin	R	R		R			R									
Bhutan	R						R									
Bolivia	R	S	S				R									
Bosnia and Herzegovina	R		R	R			R	R					R			R
Botswana	R	S	R	R			R									
Brazil	R	R	R	R	R		R	R								S
Brunei Darussalam							R	R								
Bulgaria	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R			R	R		
Burkina Faso	S	R					R									*S*
Burundi	S	S		S	S		S									
Cambodia				S												
Cameroon	S	S	R				R	R								
Canada	R	R	R	R	R		R	R				(1)				
Cape Verde	R						R									
Central African Republic	R	S		S			R									
Chad	R						R									
Chile	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R								R
China		R	R	R	R		R	R								
Colombia	R	S	S	R	R		R	R								R
Comoros							R	R								
Congo			S				R									
Cook Islands								R								
Costa Rica	R		S	S	R		R	R								R
Cote d'Ivoire	R						R									S
Croatia	R		R	R			R	R					R	R	R	
Cuba		R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R						
Cyprus	R	R	R	R	R		R	R					R			S
Czech Republic	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R		R	R	R		

Note: (1) Canada has a Cooperation Agreement with ESA, but is not a Member.

Treaty Status Table as of January 1, 2016

TREATY ---- STATE	(1) 1963 NTBT	(2) 1967 OST	(3) 1968 ARRA	(4) 1972 LIAB	(5) 1975 REG	(6) 1979 MOON	(7) 1971 ITSO	(8) 1976 IMSO	(9) 1971 INTR	(10) 1976 INTC	(11) 1976 ARBS	(12) 1975 ESA	(13) 1982 EUTL	(14) 1983 EUMT	(15) 1974 BRUS	(16) 2012 SP
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea		R			R		R	R	R							
Dem. Rep. of the Congo (formerly - Zaire)	R	S	S	S			R									
Denmark	R	R	R	R	R		R	R				R	R	R		
Djibouti											R					
Dominican Republic	R	R	S	R			R									
Ecuador	R	R	R	R			R									
Egypt	R	R	R	S			R	R			R					
El Salvador	R	R	R	S			R								R	
Equatorial Guinea	R	R					R									
Estonia		R					R					*R*	R	R		
Ethiopia	S	S					R									
Fiji	R	R	R	R			R									
Finland	R	R	R	R			R	R				R	R	R		
France		R	R	R	R	S	R	R				R	R	R	S	
Gabon	R		R	R			R	R								
Gambia	R	S	R	S			R									
Georgia							R	R	R				R			
Germany	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R			R	R	R	R	*S*
Ghana	R	S	S	S			R	R								
Greece	R	R	R	R	R		R	R				R	R	R	R	
Guatemala	R			S		S	R									
Guinea							R									
Guinea-Bissau	R	R	R				R									
Guyana		S	R													
Haiti	S	S	S	S			R									
Holy See		S					R						R			
Honduras	R	S		S			R								R	
Hungary	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R		*R*	R	R		
Iceland	R	R	R	S			R	R					R	R		
India	R	R	R	R	R	S	R	R	R							
Indonesia	R	R	R	R	R		R	R								
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	R	S	R	R	S		R	R								
Iraq	R	R	R	R			R	R			R					
Ireland	R	R	R	R			R					R	R	R		
Israel	R	R	R	R			R	R							S	
Italy	R	R	R	R	R		R	R				R	R	R	R	
Jamaica	R	R	S				R								R	
Japan	R	R	R	R	R		R	R								
Jordan	R	S	S	S			R	R			R					
Kazakhstan		R	R	R	R	R	R		R				R			
Kenya	R	R		R			R	R							R	
Kuwait	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R			R					
Kyrgyzstan							R		R							
Lao People's Dem. Republic	R	R	R	R					R							

Treaty Status Table as of January 1, 2016

TREATY ---- STATE	(1) 1963 NTBT	(2) 1967 OST	(3) 1968 ARRA	(4) 1972 LIAB	(5) 1975 REG	(6) 1979 MOON	(7) 1971 ITSO	(8) 1976 IMSO	(9) 1971 INTR	(10) 1976 INTC	(11) 1976 ARBS	(12) 1975 ESA	(13) 1982 EUTL	(14) 1983 EUMT	(15) 1974 BRUS	(16) 2012 SP
Latvia								R					R	R		
Lebanon	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R			R				S	
Lesotho		S	S													
Liberia	R							R								
Libya	R	R	R	R	R		R	R			R					
Liechtenstein				R	R		R						R			
Lithuania		R	R	R	R								R	R		
Luxembourg	R	R	S	R			R					R	R	R		
Madagascar	R	R	R				R									
Malawi	R						R									
Malaysia	R	S	S				R	R								
Maldives			R													
Mali	S	R		R			R									
Malta	R		S	R			R	R					R			
Marshall Islands								R								
Mauritania	R						R				R					
Mauritius	R	R	R				R	R								
Mexico	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R							R	
Micronesia (Fed. States of)							R									
Monaco			S				R	R					R			
Mongolia	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R						
Montenegro	R		R	R	R		R	R					R		R	
Morocco	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R			R				R	
Mozambique							R	R								
Myanmar	R	R	S													
Nepal	R	R	R	S			R									
Netherlands	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R				R	R	R		
New Zealand	R	R	R	R			R	R								
Nicaragua	R	S	S	S	S		R		R						R	
Niger	R	R	R	R	R		R									
Nigeria	R	R	R	R	R		R	R								
Norway	R	R	R	R	R		R	R				R	R	R		
Oman				S			R	R			R				R	
Pakistan	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R								
Palau								R								
Panama	R	S		R			R	R							R	
Papua New Guinea	R	R	R	R			R									
Paraguay	S						R									
Peru	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R							R	
Philippines	R	S	S	S		R	R	R								
Poland	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R		R	R	R		
Portugal	S	R	R				R	R				R	R	R	R	
Qatar		R	R	R	R		R	R			R					
Republic of Korea	R	R	R	R	R		R	R							R	
Republic of Moldova													R		R	
Romania	R	R	R	R		S	R	R	R	R		R	R	R		
Russian Federation	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R			R		R	

Treaty Status Table as of January 1, 2016, for certain IGOs

TREATY <i>(See Note below.)</i> ---- ORGANIZATION	(3) 1968 ARRA	(4) 1972 LIAB	(5) 1975 REG	(6) 1979 MOON
European Space Agency (ESA)	D	D	D	
European Org. for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)	D	D	D	
European Telecommunications Satellite Org. (EUTELSAT)		D	D	
Totals for 3 Organizations:	2	3	3	
<p>Note: The Committee believes that only four of the agreements covered in the report (1968 ARRA, 1972 LIAB, 1975 REG and 1979 MOON) provide for a declaration of acceptance of rights and obligations ("D") by IGOs.</p>				

**Agreements for which status has changed
1999 - 2015**

TREATY ---- STATE	(1) 1963 NTBT	(2) 1967 OST	(3) 1968 ARRA	(4) 1972 LIAB	(5) 1975 REG	(6) 1979 MOON	(7) 1971 ITSO	(8) 1976 IMSO	(9) 1971 INTR	(10) 1976 INTC	(11) 1976 ARBS	(12) 1975 ESA	(13) 1982 EUTL	(14) 1983 EUMT	(15) 1974 BRUS	(16) 2012 SP
~ Changes in status for 1999 ~																
Indonesia	R	S	*R*	R	R		R	R								
Jamaica	R	R	S				R									*R*
Liechtenstein				R	*R*		R						R			
Morocco	R	R	R	R		R	R	*R*			R					R
St. Vincent and Grenadines		*R*	*R*	*R*	R											
United Arab Emirates					*R*		R	R			R					
~ Changes in status for 2000 ~																
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea							*R*		R							
India	R	R	R	R	R	S	R	R	*R*							
Kazakhstan		R	R	R	*R*	*R*	R		R				R			
Portugal	S		R				R	R				*R*	R	R	R	
Rwanda	R	S	S	S			R									*R*
Spain	R	R	*R*	R	R		R	R				R	R	R	R	S
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia													*R*			R
Ukraine	R	R	R	R	R			R	*R*				R			
~ Changes in status for 2001 ~																
Cuba		R	R	R	R		*R*	R	R	R						
Gambia	R	S	R	S			*R*									
Georgia							*R*		R				R			
Guinea-Bissau	R	R	R				*R*									
Portugal	S	*R*	R				R	R				R	R	R	R	
United Arab Emirates		*R*		*R*	R		R	R			R					
~ Changes in status for 2002 ~																
Comoros							R	*R*								
Greece	R	R	R	R	*R*		R	R					R	R	R	
Luxembourg	R	S	S	R			R						R	*R*		
Peru	R	R	R	*R*	R	S	R	R								R
Togo	R	R		R			R									*R*
~ Changes in status for 2003 ~																
Belgium	R	R	R	R	R	*R*	R	R				R	R	R	R	S
Tonga	R	R	R					*R*								
~ Changes in status for 2004 ~																
Azerbaijan							R		*R*				R			
Greece	R	R	R	R	R		R	R				*R*	R	R	R	
Luxembourg	R	S	S	R			R					*R*	R	R		
Singapore	R	R	R	R	S		R	R								*R*
~ Changes in status for 2005 ~																
Brazil	R	R	R	R	*R*		R	R								S
Indonesia	R	*R*	R	R	R		R	R								
Italy	R	R	R	R	*R*		R	R				R	R	R	R	
Nigeria	R	R	R	*R*			R	R								
Peru	R	R	R	R	R	*R*	R	R								R
~ Changes in status for 2006 ~																
Algeria	S	R		S	*R*		R	R			R					
Lebanon	R	R	R	S	*R*	*R*	R	R			R					S
Montenegro					*R*											*R*
Turkey	R	R	*R*		*R*		R	R					R	R		

**Agreements for which status has changed
1999 - 2015**

TREATY ---- STATE	(1) 1963 NTBT	(2) 1967 OST	(3) 1968 ARRA	(4) 1972 LIAB	(5) 1975 REG	(6) 1979 MOON	(7) 1971 ITSO	(8) 1976 IMSO	(9) 1971 INTR	(10) 1976 INTC	(11) 1976 ARBS	(12) 1975 ESA	(13) 1982 EUTL	(14) 1983 EUMT	(15) 1974 BRUS	(16) 2012 SP
~ Changes in status for 2012 ~																
Morocco	R	R	R	R	*R*	R	R	R			R				R	
Poland	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R		*R*	R	R		
Qatar		*R*	*R*	R	*R*		R	R			R					
Saudi Arabia		R		R	*R*	*R*	R	R			R					
Somalia	S	S	S				R		*R*		R					
South Africa	R	R	R	*R*	R		R	R								
Turkey	R	R	R	R	R	*R*	R	R					R	R		
~ Changes in status for 2013 ~																
Colombia	R	S	S	*R*	*R*		R	R								
Cook Islands								*R*								
Croatia	R		*R*	*R*			R	R					R	R	R	
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea		R			R		R	*R*	R							
Estonia		R					R						R	*R*		
Iceland	R	R	R	S			R	R					R	*R*		
Kuwait	R	R	R	R	*R*	*R*	R	R			R					
Lithuania		*R*	*R*	*R*	*R*								R	*R*		
~ Changes in status for 2014 ~																
Bulgaria	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R			R	*R*		
Colombia	R	S	S	R	R		R	R							*R*	
Georgia							R	*R*	R				R			
Jordan	R	S	S	S			R	*R*			R					
~ Changes in status for 2015~																
Azerbaijan		*R*					R		R				R			
Burkina Faso	S	R					R									*S*
Estonia		R					R					*R*	R	R		
Germany	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R			R	R	R	R	*S*
Hungary	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R		*R*	R	R		
Saudi Arabia		R		R	R	R	R	R			R					*S*
Zimbabwe							R									*S*

Note: Burkina Faso, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe signed 2012 SP in 2012.

Declarations of Principles Relating to Activities in Outer Space adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations

1. **Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII)).** Adopted without vote on 13 December 1963.

2. **Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting (General Assembly resolution 37/92).** Adopted by 107 votes to 13, with 13 abstentions, on 10 December 1982 as follows (voting results are reproduced from UN document A/37/PV.100, 17 December 1982):

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Botswana, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, Chili, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Lebanon, Malawi, Morocco, New Zealand, Portugal, Sweden.

3. **Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 41/65).** Adopted without vote on 3 December 1986.

4. **Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 47/68).** Adopted without vote on 14 December 1992.

5. **Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interests of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 51/122).** Adopted without vote on 13 December 1996.

The texts of the General Assembly resolutions referred to above may be found at—
<http://www.un.org/documents/resga.htm>

The texts of the United Nations treaties and declarations of principles relating to activities in outer space are also set out in a UN publication—
United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space, related General Assembly resolutions and other documents

A copy of this report can be downloaded from the Institute's web site—
<http://www.iislweb.org/committee.html>