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#### **Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law**

## **Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law**

### Note by the Secretariat

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## I. Introduction

1. The present document was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

## II. Replies received from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

### Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation

[Original: English]

[12 January 2024]

The mission of the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation is to contribute to the collaboration and dissemination of these branches of law through training and research activities, promoting the study of the legal and technical branches of the Latin American area, and bringing together jurists, technicians and airlines of the Ibero-American States.

The Institute's main activities, from the previous report to the present, have been:

(a) The closing of the fourth edition and the opening of the fifth edition of the postgraduate university degree programme entitled "Specialist in aviation and space law". In October 2023, a new edition began, with high-level students of different nationalities (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

(b) The publication of the book *Estudios sobre Derecho Aeronáutico y Espacial*, volume III, which brings together the most outstanding work of the students of the course mentioned above;

(c) The forty-seventh Ibero-American Conference on Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, held at the National University of Asunción (Paraguay) in 2022. During the Conference, the following issues were presented and discussed: "Protection of space cultural heritage", by the President of the Institute, Santiago Ripol Carulla, and "Dispute resolution in space law", by Alejandro de Fuentes. These meetings are some of the most important academic and scientific events held by the Institute, with its headquarters established in one of the countries in the area of its activity. The lectures are given by renowned legal and academic experts in the field of aeronautical, space and commercial aviation law;

(d) The presentation of the book *Los derechos culturales y el espacio ultraterrestre* (Cultural rights and outer space: 24 January 2023, Spain), written by Santiago Ripol Carulla and Elvira Prado Alegre, and presented by Juan Manuel de Faramiñán. The presentation is available on YouTube for further dissemination at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6PzNFAKvG8&t=231s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6PzNFAKvG8&t=231s);

(e) On the occasion of International Moon Day 2023, the Secretary-General of the Institute, Pablo Navasqués, inaugurated International Moon Day in Spain at an online event organized by the international lunar organization Moon Village Association (see <https://derechoaeroespacial.org/newsletter-not20>);

(f) The organization and holding of the conference "The Importance of Testing and Measurements in Certification of Space Flight Systems" by George A. Salazar (see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUbPOHNqAXU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUbPOHNqAXU)).

## International Astronomical Union

[Original: English]  
[15 January 2024]

### **Astronomical observations are an exercise in the exploration and use of outer space**

The International Astronomical Union Centre for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky partnered with the Outer Space Institute, a research institute based in Canada, and observer organizations to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, namely, the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, the Square Kilometre Array Observatory and the European Astronomical Society, to conduct a series of studies examining the legal relationship of astronomy and astronomical observations to space law.

This included work by research groups, exchanges of views at an International Astronomical Union symposium in La Palma, Spain, from 2 to 6 October 2023, and discussions at a workshop of experts held by the Outer Space Institute in Vancouver, Canada, on 16 and 17 November 2023. This response presents the conclusions of those activities with regard to astronomy and international law.

Astronomy is defined by the Cambridge American Dictionary as the scientific study of the universe as a whole and of objects that exist naturally in space, such as the stars.

Astronomy and astronomical observations rely upon the detection of electromagnetic radiation, astrophysical particles and gravitational waves. Those observations are unequivocally concerned with the exploration of outer space, regardless of whether they are taken from Earth, on another celestial body or in orbit.

States have made substantial investments in the development of major astronomical facilities, including within multinational partnerships. Furthermore, astronomy is part of many States' national identities and the primary way in which their actors conduct the scientific investigation of objects in outer space.

With the recognition that the appropriate use of satellites brings substantial benefits to society, the proliferation of satellites has led to an increasing source of interference for astronomical facilities worldwide, including optical and radio observatories. Moreover, there is concern among astronomers that the continued proliferation of satellites without appropriate mitigation efforts could lead to a substantial loss of data and limit the ability to develop next-generation astronomical facilities that would push the frontiers of space exploration and science.

In the light of the importance of astronomy to space exploration, and to clarify its status under international law, recent work has investigated whether astronomical observations are a legally recognized form of space exploration.<sup>1</sup> Those studies have examined national and international policies, along with State practice, and have found strong support for the view that astronomy is indeed an exercise in the exploration and use of outer space under international law.

To analyse this conclusion further, international law requires the application of a systematic approach to the interpretation of treaties, as outlined in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969. The Convention is generally accepted to have codified existing customary international law and is therefore applicable to treaties concluded before the Convention was adopted, as is the case for the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> Giuliana Rotola and Andrew Williams, "Regulatory context of conflicting uses of outer space: astronomy and satellite constellations", *Air and Space Law*, vol. 46 No. 4/5 (2021); Connie Walker and Piero Benvenuti (eds.), *Dark and Quiet Skies II for Science and Society: Working Group Reports*, (2022).

In conducting such a systematic treaty analysis, additional studies have examined whether astronomical observations are an exercise in the “exploration and use” of outer space under the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty.<sup>2</sup> Those studies have found unambiguously that astronomical observations are indeed a legal exercise of the peaceful exploration of outer space and, with that, enjoy the freedoms and protections under the Outer Space Treaty, especially those afforded by articles I and IX.

An immediate implication of this result is that there already exists an obligation for satellite-launching States to show “due regard” and to avoid “potentially harmful interference” with the activities of States that conduct astronomical observations (art. IX of the Outer Space Treaty). States conducting astronomical observations are engaging in “the freedom of scientific exploration in outer space” and, especially for multinational facilities, do so in a way that facilitates and encourages “international cooperation in such investigation” (art. I of the Outer Space Treaty).

Astronomy and astronomical observations are fundamental to space exploration, and they enjoy freedoms and protections under international law with respect to space exploration. States are further obligated to show due regard to the astronomical interests of other States.

## **International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik)**

[Original: English]  
[11 December 2023]

Established in 1971, the International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik) is an intergovernmental satellite telecommunications organization tasked with ensuring cooperation in and the coordination of efforts in the design, establishment, operation and development of the communications system via satellites. Intersputnik brings together the Governments of its member States and national telecommunications organizations designated by member States as signatories.

### **1. Activities involving members and signatories**

Intersputnik promotes the exchange of experience and capacity-building in the field of space law in cooperation with its members and signatories. To create a common information space, Intersputnik regularly shares with its members and signatories analytical reviews on the current status and prospects for the development of space activities, paying special attention to the use of satellite applications. In June 2023, Intersputnik held its annual “NatSatTel” conference, dedicated to the development of satellite communications systems and their regulation in Intersputnik member States. At one of the conference round tables, young professionals from the member States of Intersputnik discussed the role of youth in the digitalization of the global economy and bridging the digital divide.

With the aim of expanding the talent pool in the member States and supporting youth, Intersputnik invited young professionals from its members and signatories to attend the International Astronautical Congress held in Baku in October 2023. The Congress was co-organized by the Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azercosmos), which represents Azerbaijan as a member State of Intersputnik. Funding from Intersputnik enabled young professionals from one third of Intersputnik member States to attend the Congress.

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<sup>2</sup> Treaty interpretation in chapter 3.2 of Michael Byers and Aaron Boley, *Who Owns Outer Space? International Law, Astrophysics, and the Sustainable Development of Space*, (Cambridge University Press, 2023), which draws from a first draft of the treaty interpretation in the *Dark and Quiet Skies II* report (see footnote 1). While the focus in those interpretations is on “astronomy”, the more general term “astronomical observations” could be substituted in the analysis without changing the result.

Intersputnik also provided financial support to young professionals from its member States by sponsoring their participation in the World Radiocommunication Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), held in November and December 2023. In addition to presenting its own contribution on individual items on the Conference agenda, Intersputnik was pleased to contribute to the involvement of young professionals in the work of this major international forum.

Another capacity-building initiative of Intersputnik is offering young professionals from its member States an opportunity to intern at its International Legal Service so that they can gain useful knowledge and practical experience in the field of space law and space communications. In 2023, Intersputnik mentored three interns, including its first intern from Turkmenistan, whose thesis is devoted to maintaining outer space as a peaceful environment. Another intern successfully defended, under Intersputnik supervision, a thesis on the prospects of the international legal regulation of activities related to space resources. The thesis relied on the information which the student was able to access thanks to the status of Intersputnik as a permanent observer to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In 2023, to encourage early interest in space law, Intersputnik mentored, for the first time, a high school intern. This practice proved to be successful and will be continued.

## **2. Activities involving other governmental and non-governmental organizations**

Intersputnik continues its efforts to boost cooperation with the United Nations system, including specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies in the field of information and communications technology and space activities.

In 2023, Intersputnik took part in a full cycle of sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees. Intersputnik also participated in a series of special events conducted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and shared its suggestions on the agenda of the workshop of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

Supporting the thematic initiatives of the General Assembly, in 2023, Intersputnik took part in the meetings of the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, convened by the General Assembly, and was represented at the ninth edition of the Science Summit around the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, at a session dedicated to space-related legal and ethical considerations in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As part of its cooperation with ITU, Intersputnik contributed to the workshop entitled “ITU in Service for Space”, held by the ITU Radiocommunication Sector in June 2023, in particular to its session dedicated to experience-sharing by national regulators. To enable wider participation and a truly international exchange of views at the workshop, Intersputnik provided support to ensure its interpretation into the six official languages of ITU.

As a member of the International Astronautical Federation, Intersputnik participated in the above-mentioned International Astronautical Congress in October 2023. Within the Congress programme, Intersputnik presented a paper concerning the international regulation of large satellite constellations.

## **3. Activities involving academia and industry**

As part of its space law capacity-building efforts, Intersputnik cooperates with universities.

In 2023, this included teaching a course on international space law and telecommunications law at Saint Petersburg University, guest lecturing at McGill University, within the framework of its Strategic Space Law Course, on the ITU regime applicable to space communications, and contributing to the Summer Space School organized by the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences

by lecturing on problems and development trends in international space law. With organizational support from Intersputnik, the annual Congress on Public International Law convened by the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University) held a special session on international space law where all participants could exchange views on topical legal issues related to the exploration and use of outer space. Cooperation with RUDN University also included Intersputnik joining the RUDN University Space Week, held within the framework of the annual World Space Week.

In February 2023, Intersputnik also took part in a workshop on the risk to aircraft from uncontrolled re-entries of space debris, which was organized by the Outer Space Institute, the McGill Institute of Air and Space Law and the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety. The workshop resulted in the adoption of the Montreal Recommendations on Aviation Safety and Uncontrolled Space Object Re-Entries.

As an intergovernmental organization operating its own satellite system, Intersputnik is a member of the Global Satellite Operators Association. As such, Intersputnik supported the Global Satellite Operators Association Code of Conduct on Space Sustainability, released in November 2023, which aims to promote space sustainability practices in the industry. This was yet another step taken by Intersputnik to foster space sustainability and reiterate its commitment to it, as Intersputnik was one of the first organizations to sign the space debris statement developed under the auspices of the Global Future Council on Space of the World Economic Forum in October 2021.

## **International Space University**

[Original: English]  
[15 January 2024]

The International Space University (ISU) is a non-profit organization founded in 1987 in Massachusetts and currently headquartered in Strasbourg, France. ISU is dedicated to providing high-quality training and education for individuals wishing to enter the space sector by providing a variety of courses covering all aspects of the industry. Each of its programmes are based on an international, interdisciplinary and intercultural educational approach, and on the promotion of the peaceful use of outer space. The interdisciplinary nature of these courses includes a strong emphasis on education related to space policy and law with the intention of promoting safe, sustainable and peaceful activities in space among current and future actors in the sector.

ISU activities related to space law in 2023 can be briefly summarized by an overview of the applicable curricula for the ISU Master of Space Studies Programme, the Space Studies Programme, the Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Programme and the Executive Space Course. Last year, these courses welcomed a combined total of 216 students from 45 different countries who, since completing their respective courses, have gone on to join space agencies or private companies, have begun creating their own start-ups, or have begun pursuing further studies in the space sector. This is to say that ISU has an influential platform, a broad and diverse reach within the sector and a significant mentorship role for future leaders in space. ISU has great respect for this role and uses its courses dedicated to space policy and law for the promotion of international collaboration to ensure that space continues to be used for the betterment of humanity.

During the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee in Vienna, it is the intention of ISU to present how, in 2024 and beyond, it will continue to expand its educational offerings, and how to reach an even wider audience through workshops, seminars or conferences which may be of interest to current professionals or government leaders. The following provides an overview of policy- and law-related topics which were included in the curricula for the Master of Space Studies Programme, the Space

Studies Programme, the Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Programme and executive education courses in 2023.

### **Master of Space Studies**

The Master of Space Studies is a 12-month programme held yearly at the central campus of ISU in Strasbourg. In 2024, it has been supplemented by an 18-month fully accredited Master of Science in Space Studies. A significant proportion of the courses are dedicated to space policy and law and include the following topics:

- The changing space context
- Principles of space policy and the space economy
- Space law fundamentals, including international and national space law
- The role of the United Nations in space
- Space sustainability

In 2023, several students in the Master of Space Studies Programme worked on topics related to space policy and law for their individual projects, and select individuals were chosen to present their results at the International Astronautical Congress in Baku in 2023.

### **Space Studies Programme**

The 2023 version of the Space Studies Programme took place in São José dos Campos, Brazil, and was organized with the support of the National Institute for Space Research and the Aeronautics Institute of Technology. This two-month programme is held annually in a different location all over the globe. In 2024, the Space Studies Programme will take place in Houston, Texas, in collaboration with Rice University and the Johnson Space Centre of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Like the Master of Space Studies, these programmes dedicate significant time to space policy and law while including team projects which focus on issues pertaining to this topic. During the Space Studies Programme in 2023, several core lectures on space policy and law were presented to all 93 participants, and one department was entirely focused on space policy, economics and law, thereby allowing students to explore such topics in further depth. Students were also exposed to new models of international cooperation and current issues in space law. During their group assignment, participants worked closely on the dispute resolution procedure used in the sector (arbitration case).

### **Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Programme**

ISU, in cooperation with the University of South Australia in Adelaide, also organized the Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Programme. Like the Space Studies Programme, this course is designed for students, academics and professionals from all disciplines. Following a similar curriculum to the Space Studies Programme, the 38 participants in this programme were also educated on the fundamentals of policy and law.

### **Executive education**

The Executive Space Course is a one-week course dedicated to providing an overview of various aspects of the space sector for professionals needing a working knowledge of space applications for their primary professional activity. The Executive Space Course held in Strasbourg in 2023 was dedicated to introducing the participants to the concepts of space policy, space law and international cooperation. ISU also organized a space sector crash course in Houston, United States, that presented the past, present and future of all important global space sector perspectives, including policy and law.

Additionally, ISU continued to initiate research activities in the domain of space policy and law as part of its Space Policy and Entrepreneurship Lab, attended many

expert meetings and supported further programmes in Europe, Africa and the Middle East as part of its mandate to support capacity-building initiatives in those domains.

To summarize, the diversity of the academic offerings of ISU, its focus on education in relation to space policy and law, and its broad reach within the sector make it the ideal platform for promoting the safe, sustainable and peaceful use of outer space. ISU is working diligently to continue its efforts in 2024 and is continuously seeking ways to expand its activities to further this goal. ISU looks forward to discussing its activities with the Subcommittee further and to exchanging with its diverse stakeholders in order to continue tailoring its courses to the needs of the sector.

## Open Lunar Foundation

[Original: English]

[16 January 2024]

The Open Lunar Foundation is an international non-profit organization dedicated to advancing a sustainable, peaceful presence on the Moon for the benefit of all humanity. It works at the intersection of technology and policy, with a focus on intentional precedent-setting. For over five years, the Open Lunar Foundation has focused on research and development in infrastructure solutions to enable positive lunar futures. The Foundation has been workshopping, developing, funding and directly building experimental initiatives in support of this goal. Examples include open-sourcing lander designs, building an accessible lunar architecture, holding informal policy dialogues and creating the *Lunar Policy Handbook*, an overview of expert perspectives on contemporary lunar policy.

The Open Lunar Foundation focuses on creating a positive impact in the lunar community through supporting the development of projects and initiatives. One such project, the Registry of Lunar Objects and Activities (see [www.openlunar.org/research/bright-moon-whitepaper](http://www.openlunar.org/research/bright-moon-whitepaper)), was taken from the early research stages to a development proposal by the Foundation's research fellows during 2023.

The Lunar Registry is a project aimed at documenting and tracking objects and activities on and around the Moon. Its purpose is to enhance transparency, coordination and responsible stewardship in lunar exploration and development by maintaining a comprehensive and accessible registry. It aims to complement and support the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

The results of this work include a technical demonstration of a prototype registry, stakeholder consultation, a road map for development and a deep dive into the operating options, including the legal and policy implications of such a registry.

The Lunar Policy Platform, an initiative supported and funded by the Open Lunar Foundation, released its first results – the lunar policy priorities report and the lunar policy decalogue – at the Paris Peace Forum, synthesizing over 40 stakeholder interviews and laying the foundations for the additional exploration of key topics related to lunar policy. The report can be viewed at <https://lunarpolicyplatform.org/policypriorities>.

This report identifies priority areas for further consideration by policymakers who want to advance sustainable lunar development. The report has two sections: the first covers the Lunar Policy Platform and its rationale, while the second outlines 10 priorities for lunar development and diverse stakeholder policy tools. An annex includes the Lunar Policy Platform's workplan and a draft lunar policy decalogue.

The Breaking Ground Trust, an Open Lunar Foundation initiative aimed at prototyping policies for managing lunar resources in a way that is sustainable, lawful and multilateral, explored the nexus between safety zones and lunar resources, continued advocacy for demonstrating innovative and alternative approaches to resource management, and welcomed new members to its Trust Stewardship Committee. The Breaking Ground team published the paper entitled "Safety zones for

sustainability on the Moon: the example of the Breaking Ground Trust” in the *Air and Space Law Journal* in April 2023.<sup>3</sup>

In 2023, the Open Lunar Foundation also invested in an affiliate programme to formally recognize and systematically include expert advice from across many schools of thought. This was in furtherance of a multidisciplinary research culture at the Open Lunar Foundation, with the involvement of experts and researchers in topics ranging from aerospace engineering to international policy, and from Indigenous law and policy to multi-stakeholder community-building. Affiliates advise the Open Lunar Foundation project evaluation, organizational investment and impact, research idea generation and evaluation, and community engagement.

In 2023, the Open Lunar Foundation gathered over 30 innovative ideas from a diverse group of experts who support its vision for a peaceful lunar presence. Each idea was diligently assessed against the Foundation’s impact criteria, in collaboration with over 25 subject matter experts. The resulting research areas ranged from safety zones to lunar landing pads. These research areas will be the focus of the Foundation’s upcoming fellowship cohort in 2024. As a result, the research areas for the 2024 fellowship cohort include an investigation into lunar power standards, a registry of accidents and issues, cooperative lunar landing pads, a review for lunar payloads and a technological gap assessment. More information can be found at [www.openlunar.org/blog/upcoming-research-areas](http://www.openlunar.org/blog/upcoming-research-areas).

In March 2023, the Open Lunar Foundation, along with the Secure World Foundation, the Space Generation Advisory Council and For All Moonkind, launched the *Lunar Policy Handbook* at a side event at the sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The *Handbook* provides a snapshot of existing legal and policy principles related to the exploration and use of the Moon, as well as a detailed consideration of the main policy questions raised by the various types of lunar activities. The launch was a success, and the *Handbook* is considered important literature in the lunar policy landscape.

The Open Lunar Foundation also engaged closely with the global space community at various policy platforms in 2023 in support of the mission to understand and contribute to a way of establishing a peaceful lunar presence. It began the year by attending the Arizona State University Interplanetary Initiative Space Futures Convening. In March, representatives of the Foundation spoke at the session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its capacity as an official observer. In October, the Foundation attended the International Astronautical Congress in Baku, where it presented its registry concept. It was also honoured to be invited to the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization meeting in Lima, where it presented an overview of the lunar policy landscape and opportunities for collaborative dialogue. In addition, the Foundation delivered a keynote speech at Spaceport Norway on the importance of social licence in the context of lunar development. The Foundation also attended the Paris Peace Forum, where it supported the launch of the Lunar Policy Platform’s report, synthesizing their intensive work on lunar policy priorities.

## **Regional Centre for Remote Sensing for North African States**

[Original: English]  
[16 December 2023]

The Regional Centre for Remote Sensing for North African States (CRTEAN) is a regional organization based in Tunisia and includes North African countries and countries from the Middle East. In an effort to improve the policies of member States in space activities, including remote sensing, and to achieve coordination and cooperation among them, in accordance with article 2 of its Basic Law, CRTEAN worked on developing the tools necessary to implement these policies, the main ones

<sup>3</sup> See <https://kluwerlawonline.com/journalarticle/Air+and+Space+Law/48.SI/AILA2023038>.

being legislative tools. The Centre pays great attention to the legal and legislative framework of its activity. This framework sets proposals for foundations and rules, determines implementation methods and conditions, and governs the relationships and responsibilities resulting from its practice, as well as the various aspects related to it.

From this standpoint, and since it became clear to the Centre that there was a lack of legal grounds for regulating space activities in the majority of its member States, the Centre has worked hard to ensure that the primary goal of its legal activity in recent years has been to establish the appropriate legal framework for such regulation at the level of member States, while ensuring compatibility and consistency in national legislation. This would contribute to the coordination of States' policies and enhance cooperation among them. Specialized international and regional organizations have proven that the presence of consistency and harmony in the national legislation of their member States contribute to enhancing cooperation and coordination.

Therefore, during the last five years, CRTEAN has been keen to organize many meetings and workshops, which have led to the development of the optimal means of achieving this goal: preparing a legislative document to regulate space activities. The document would be a model law to guide member States in developing their national legislation.

This would help harmonize the space law systems of the Centre's member States, enhance joint cooperation between them in the field of space activities, and support the exchange of technical and legislative expertise in this field. In addition, it would save these States effort, time and money in preparing their national laws in this field.

In this regard, CRTEAN has worked hard in recent years to achieve this objective. To discuss the importance of preparing a law to regulate space activities, the Centre held a meeting of Arab experts in Khartoum from 31 May to 1 June 2015, at which 12 papers and interventions were presented and discussed and four round tables were organized for discussions on international and national legislation and relevant technical aspects.

The meeting concluded by agreeing on the legislative and practical need to implement the project of drafting a model law to regulate space activities. The model law would be used to guide member States in developing their national legislation. CRTEAN was assigned to carry out the supervision and coordination process for the implementation of this project.

In the same context, on 11 December 2016, a meeting of experts in the field of space law from member States was held in Cairo, where the components of the proposed project, its general implementation plan and its financial cost were presented and discussed.

Following the directives of the CRTEAN Board of Directors, in late 2017, a working group of jurists and space law specialists from member States was formed for the purpose of preparing the aforementioned project.

After the work team established the basics and foundations of this project, its work programme and the stages of its implementation, the team held many meetings over a period of two years, until it completed the draft law. In August 2019, a meeting of legal experts from member States was held in Tunisia, where the draft version was discussed. The work, which enriched the draft through many revisions and amendments, was concluded with the approval of the draft law for regulating space activities in member States, intended as a model to guide member States when developing their national laws.

The model law included the basic provisions necessary to regulate space activities, without addressing the detailed or executive texts appropriate to them, because such detailed provisions are mostly of a local nature and are usually included in a subtext of a lower rank in the legislative hierarchy, in order for them to be easy to amend and change. In February 2020, therefore, the working group drafted an executive

regulation that included the detailed provisions referred to in the model law to regulate space activities, in order to create guidance materials that complement the aforementioned law and contribute to facilitating its implementation mechanisms and ensuring compatibility with the legislative systems of the States concerned.

In order for the Centre to clarify this important work and to bring closer understanding of its dimensions and background, it directed the working group to prepare a memorandum that explains the content of the model law and highlights the various considerations that dictated its issuance and the purpose or background behind its provisions and requirements, with the aim of clarifying the legislators' intentions, the scope of the provisions, and their relationship to each other and to other related legislation. This will facilitate understanding and implementation of the articles and provisions of the law.

In terms of training and building the capacities of specialists from member States in this context, CRTEAN held three training workshops for people of interest and with expertise from countries in the region. The workshops were held in Sudan, Egypt and Tunisia and were attended by a large number of specialists.

CRTEAN also participated in presenting the results of space law at the third International Conference and Exhibition on Advanced Geospatial Science and Technology, held in 2022 (TeaGeo 2022), and it will dedicate a complete session to this topic at the fourth International Conference (TeaGeo 2024).

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