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Item 15 of the provisional agenda*

**Review of international mechanisms for cooperation
in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space**

Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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* [A/AC.105/C.2/L.299](#).



II. Replies received from States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Austria

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[1 February 2016]

Austria reported on cooperation in 2015 ([A/AC.105/C.2/2015/CRP.14](#)). Since then, cooperation has increased, as follows:

International cooperation:

- International cooperation by Austria in the area of space activities consists primarily of participation in programmes administered by the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, the European Space Agency, the European Union and the International Telecommunication Union. Those programmes include Copernicus, the European Satellite Navigation System (Galileo), Horizon 2020 and the Space Situational Awareness programme.
- Austria cooperates with the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat. Austria is currently providing the Office with funding for one project post and additional support in the form of a non-reimbursable loan of personnel.

Cooperation arrangements between the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and other space agencies:

- There is a memorandum of understanding between FFG and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) covering different space domains. In October 2016, a steering committee meeting was held.
- There is a memorandum of understanding between FFG and the Swiss Space Office that is aimed at strengthening cooperation between the national space programmes. The third bilateral call for proposals is currently open.
- Further talks to foster cooperation in informal ways have been undertaken by means of bilateral delegation meetings, for example, with Japan, Poland and the Republic of Korea.

Cooperation between FFG and other non-Austrian space entities:

- Airbus Defence and Space: a contract in connection with the Pléiades Satellite Imagery programme has been extended.

Germany

[Original: English]
[18 November 2016]

International cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space is of the utmost importance to Germany. In preparation for the session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Germany has submitted written contributions regarding its practice of and mechanisms for international cooperation. International cooperation in outer space can be successful even in times of political tensions. Since national resources are limited, international cooperation enables countries to participate in projects that exceed their individual

capabilities. Of course, there is always the risk of one partner withdrawing its participation, thereby endangering or terminating the project. In the end, the investments made by the other partners may be lost. Only the feeling of solidarity in a long-term partnership and moral appeals may prevent the loss of investment and the failure of the project. To avoid such a situation, it is essential to understand the motivation of the participating partners. Furthermore, the interests of all partners have to be taken into account.

An excellent example of successful international cooperation is the work of ESA, where the interests of each State party are respected and to which Germany remains strongly committed. As far as national activities in outer space are concerned, Germany cooperates in areas such as space exploration, scientific research, education, personnel training and disaster management through remote sensing. Such cooperation mechanisms, at either the governmental or agency level, are both multilateral and bilateral.

DLR plays a key role in managing international cooperation in outer space activities. The cooperative mechanisms are often constituted by a framework agreement and accompanied by an implementing agreement or memorandum of understanding on technical and administrative matters. In general, the provisions of such agreements are best effort clauses, no exchange of funds clauses, exchange of technical data and goods clauses, provisions concerning international responsibility and liability, cross waivers of liability, rules on intellectual property rights and ownership, clauses on registration of a space object and peaceful settlement of disputes clause.

Germany appreciates the results of the work of the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee as an important tool to promote a better understanding of the legal framework of space activities. Under the excellent leadership of Professor Setsuko Aoki of Japan and based on the submissions of member States, the Working Group elaborated details of the different types of international agreements on space activities. That provided an excellent overview of the different legal mechanisms currently in use and a unique insight into lessons learned. In order to grant the results of the Working Group more prominence, Germany supports the idea of transforming the results of the Working Group into a dedicated General Assembly resolution.

The year 2017 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which is considered the Magna Carta of space law. The results of the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space will serve as a valuable contribution to that event.