



# UNITED NATIONS

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/6804/Add.1  
16 December 1967

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-second session  
Agenda item 32

### INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

#### Addendum to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Rapporteur: Mr. Geraldo de CARVALHO SILOS

1. A special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was convened at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 16 December under the chairmanship of Mr. Kurt Waldheim (Austria). Mr. Gheorge Diaconescu (Romania) and Mr. Geraldo de Carvalho Silos served as vice-chairman and rapporteur respectively.
2. The Committee held one meeting, the record of which was circulated as document A/AC.105/PV.52.
3. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
  1. Statement by the Chairman.
  2. Report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its special session on draft agreement on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles.
  3. Adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.
4. The Chairman noted that the special meeting of the Committee had been convened to consider the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its recent special session. He stated that, following a series of informal discussions in which substantial progress had been made on the subject of assistance to, and return of, astronauts and space objects, the Legal Sub-Committee had met in special session under the chairmanship of Mr. Wyzner (Poland) on 14 and 15 December and had received the text of a draft agreement on the rescue of astronauts, the return of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space. The text of the draft agreement, as amended in the course of the special session, was transmitted to the Committee by the Legal Sub-Committee in its report (A/AC.105/43).

5. Mr. Wyzner (Poland), Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee, introduced the Sub-Committee's report.
6. In the course of the general debate statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the USSR, the United Kingdom, Sierra Leone, France, India, Italy, Australia, Canada, Japan, Belgium, Austria, Brazil, Iran and the United Arab Republic.
7. The importance of the relationship between an agreement on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles and an agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space was recognized by the Committee. The Committee was of the view that, as its work on the preparation of a draft agreement on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles had now been concluded, it should expedite its work on the equally important and urgent matter of the preparation of a draft agreement on liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space, so as to conclude its preparation not later than the beginning of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly and to submit it to that session.
8. At its fifty-second meeting, on 16 December 1967, the Committee unanimously decided to submit to the General Assembly for consideration the following draft agreement on the rescue of astronauts, the return of astronauts, and the return of objects launched into outer space:

Draft Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts,  
and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space

The Contracting Parties,

Noting the great importance 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 calls for the rendering of all possible assistance to astronauts in the event of accident, distress or emergency landing, the prompt and safe return of astronauts, and the return of objects launched into outer space,

Desiring to develop and give further concrete expression to these duties,

Wishing to promote international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

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Prompted by sentiments of humanity,  
Have agreed on the following:

#### Article 1

Each Contracting Party which receives information or discovers that the personnel of a spacecraft have suffered accident or are experiencing conditions of distress or have made an emergency or unintended landing in territory under its jurisdiction or on the high seas or in any other place not under the jurisdiction of any State shall immediately:

- (a) Notify the launching authority or, if it cannot identify and immediately communicate with the launching authority, immediately make a public announcement by all appropriate means of communication at its disposal; and
- (b) Notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations who should disseminate the information without delay by all appropriate means of communication at his disposal.

#### Article 2

If, owing to accident, distress, emergency or unintended landing, the personnel of a spacecraft land in territory under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party, it shall immediately take all possible steps to rescue them and render them all necessary assistance. It shall inform the launching authority and also the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the steps it is taking and of their progress. If assistance by the launching authority would help to effect a prompt rescue or would contribute substantially to the effectiveness of search and rescue operations, the launching authority shall co-operate with the Contracting Party with a view to the effective conduct of search and rescue operations. Such operations shall be subject to the direction and control of the Contracting Party, which shall act in close and continuing consultation with the launching authority.

#### Article 3

If information is received or it is discovered that the personnel of a spacecraft have alighted on the high seas or in any other place not under the

jurisdiction of any State, those Contracting Parties which are in a position to do so shall, if necessary, extend assistance in search and rescue operations for such personnel to assure their speedy rescue. They shall inform the launching authority and the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the steps they are taking and of their progress.

#### Article 4

If, owing to accident, distress, emergency or unintended landing, the personnel of a spacecraft land in territory under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party or have been found on the high seas or in any other place not under the jurisdiction of any State, they shall be safely and promptly returned to representatives of the launching authority.

#### Article 5

1. Each Contracting Party which receives information or discovers that a space object or its component parts has returned to Earth in territory under its jurisdiction or on the high seas or in any other place not under the jurisdiction of any State, shall notify the launching authority and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Each Contracting Party having jurisdiction over the territory on which a space object or its component parts has been discovered shall, upon the request of the launching authority and with assistance from that authority if requested, take such steps as it finds practicable to recover the object or component parts.

3. Upon request of the launching authority, objects launched into outer space or their component parts found beyond the territorial limits of the launching authority shall be returned to or held at the disposal of representatives of the launching authority, which shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to their return.

4. Notwithstanding paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article, a Contracting Party which has reason to believe that a space object or its component parts discovered in territory under its jurisdiction, or recovered by it elsewhere, is of a hazardous or deleterious nature may so notify the launching authority which shall immediately take effective steps, under the direction and control of the said Contracting Party to eliminate possible danger or harm.

5. Expenses incurred in fulfilling obligations to recover and return a space object or its component parts under paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article shall be borne by the launching authority.

#### Article 6

For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "launching authority" shall refer to the State responsible for launching, or, where an international inter-governmental organization is responsible for launching, that organization provided that that organization declares its acceptance of the rights and obligations provided for in this Agreement and a majority of the States members of that organization are Contracting Parties to this Agreement and to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

#### Article 7

1. This Agreement shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign this Agreement before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Agreement shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which are hereby designated the depositary Governments.

3. This Agreement shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by five Governments including the Governments designated as depositary Governments under this Agreement.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Agreement, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The depositary Governments shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification of and accession to this Agreement, the date of its entry into force and other notices.

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6. This Agreement shall be registered by the depositary Governments pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 8

Any State Party to the Agreement may propose amendments to this Agreement. Amendments shall enter into force for each State Party to the Agreement accepting the amendments upon their acceptance by a majority of the States Parties to the Agreement and thereafter for each remaining State Party to the Agreement on the date of acceptance by it.

Article 9

Any State Party to the Agreement may give notice of its withdrawal from the Agreement one year after its entry into force by written notification to the depositary Governments. Such withdrawal shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of this notification.

Article 10

This Agreement, of which the English, Russian, French, Spanish and Chinese texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of this Agreement shall be transmitted by the depositary Governments to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in                      copies at

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