



General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/AC.105/C.2/L.184

8 April 1991

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF  
OUTER SPACE

Legal Sub-Committee

Thirtieth session

New York, 25 March-12 April 1991

Agenda item 3

THE ELABORATION OF DRAFT PRINCIPLES RELEVANT TO  
THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE

Working paper submitted by Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France,  
Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Principle 8: Responsibility

1. States shall bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, involving the use of nuclear power sources, whether such activities are carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for assuring that such national activities are carried out in conformity with the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and the recommendations contained in these principles.

2. When activities in outer space involving the use of a nuclear power source are carried on by an international organization, responsibility for compliance with the aforesaid Treaty and the recommendations contained in these principles shall be borne both by the international organization and by the States participating in it.

Principle 9: Liability and compensation

1. In accordance with article VII 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, and the provisions of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, States which launch or procure the launching of a space object carrying a nuclear power source or States from whose territory or facility a space object carrying a nuclear power source is launched, shall be internationally liable for damage caused by such space objects or their component parts.

2. The compensation that such States shall be liable to pay for damage shall be determined in accordance with international law and the principles of justice and equity in order to provide such reparation in respect of the damage as will restore the person, natural or juridical, State or international organization on whose behalf a claim is presented to the condition which would have existed if the damage had not occurred.

3. Compensation shall also include reimbursement of the duly substantiated expenses for search, recovery and clean-up operations, including expenses for assistance received from third parties.

4. Claims for compensation for damage shall be presented and settled in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.

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