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## COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Legal Sub-Committee  
Thirteenth session  
Agenda item 5

### DRAFT PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES IN THE FIELD OF REMOTE SENSING OF EARTH RESOURCES BY MEANS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY

FRANCE and USSR: Working paper

1. Outer space shall be free for use by all States, without discrimination of any kind on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Charter and the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, for carrying out remote sensing of earth resources exclusively for peaceful purposes.
2. Such use shall, in particular, respect the principle of the sovereignty of States and especially the right of peoples and States to exercise permanent sovereignty over their wealth and resources as a basic element of their right to self-determination as well as their inalienable right to dispose of their natural resources and of information concerning those resources.
3. Activities in the field of remote sensing of earth resources from outer space and international co-operation in that field shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and their results should contribute to an improvement in the balance of the natural environment.
4. A State engaged in the exploration of natural resources by means of space technology which, in the course of such activities, obtains information on the natural resources of another State must transmit such information to the latter State on mutually acceptable terms.
5. (1) Any State whose territory is affected by activities connected with the remote sensing of earth resources may, in agreement with the State conducting the remote sensing, participate in those activities on equal and mutually acceptable terms.  
(2) A State which obtains information concerning the natural resources of another State as a result of remote sensing activities shall not be entitled to make it public without the clearly expressed consent of the State to which the natural resources belong or to use it in any other manner to the detriment of such State. Documentation resulting from remote sensing activities may not be communicated to third parties, whether Governments, international organizations or private persons, without the consent of the State whose territory is affected.

(5) Exception from the principle contained in sub-paragraph (2) above is made for information on natural disasters and phenomena which can be detrimental to the environment in general.

6. All States shall be entitled on equal and mutually acceptable terms to receive and process data resulting from activities in the remote sensing of areas situated outside the national jurisdiction of any State. They shall also be entitled to access, on the same terms, to the results of such activities within the framework of institutionalized international co-operation.

7. Every State conducting activities in the field of remote sensing of earth resources shall inform the Secretary-General thereof, in accordance with article XI of the Outer Space Treaty.