

Title:
MULTILATERAL Convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, at New York, on 12 November 1974 Came into force in respect of the States indicated hereafter on 15 September 1976, the date of deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with article VIII (3). Instruments of ratification or accession were deposited as follows: State Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification France 17 December 1975 Bulgaria 11 May 1976 Sweden 9 June 1976 Canada 4 August 1976 United States of America 15 September 1976 Authentic texts: English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish. Registered ex officio on 15 September 1976.

Registration Number: 15020

REGISTERED EX-OFFICIO, DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

By: Ex officio

Date: 15.09.1976

Signed/Adopted:
 12.11.1974, New York

Entry Into Force:

15.09.1976 DEFINITIVE

ICJ: No Authority

PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPANT	ACTION	DATE	WITH EFFECT
Argentina	SIGNATURE	26.03.1975	
Austria	SIGNATURE	14.10.1975	
Belarus	SIGNATURE	30.06.1975	
Belgium	SIGNATURE	19.03.1975	
Bulgaria	SIGNATURE	04.02.1976	
Bulgaria	RATIFICATION	11.05.1976	15.09.1976
Burundi	SIGNATURE	13.11.1975	

Canada	RATIFICATION	04.08.1976	15.09.1976
Canada	SIGNATURE	14.02.1975	
Czechoslovakia	SIGNATURE	05.04.1976	
Denmark	SIGNATURE	12.12.1975	
France	SIGNATURE	14.01.1975	
France	RATIFICATION	17.12.1975	15.09.1976
Germany	SIGNATURE	02.03.1976	
Hungary	SIGNATURE	13.10.1975	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	SIGNATURE	27.05.1975	
Mexico	SIGNATURE	19.12.1975	
Mongolia	SIGNATURE	30.10.1975	
Multilateral	ORIGINAL AGREEMENT		
Nicaragua	SIGNATURE	13.05.1975	
Niger	RATIFICATION	22.12.1976	22.12.1976
Niger	SIGNATURE	05.08.1976	
Pakistan	SIGNATURE	01.12.1975	
Poland	SIGNATURE	04.12.1975	
Singapore	SIGNATURE	31.08.1976	
Sweden	RATIFICATION	09.06.1976	15.09.1976
Sweden	SIGNATURE	09.06.1976	
Switzerland	SIGNATURE	14.04.1975	
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	SIGNATURE	11.07.1975	
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	SIGNATURE	17.06.1975	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	SIGNATURE	06.05.1975	
United States of America	RATIFICATION	15.09.1976	15.09.1976
United States of America	SIGNATURE	24.01.1975	

No. 15020

MULTILATERAL

Convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, at New York, on 12 November 1974

*Authentic texts: English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.
Registered ex officio on 15 September 1976.*

MULTILATÉRAL

Convention sur l'immatriculation des objets lancés dans l'espace extra-atmosphérique. Adoptée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, à New York, le 12 novembre 1974

*Textes authentiques : anglais, français, arabe, chinois, russe et espagnol.
Enregistrée d'office le 15 septembre 1976.*

CONVENTION¹ ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

The States Parties to this Convention,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recalling that the Treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, of 27 January 1967² affirms that States shall bear international responsibility for their national activities in outer space and refers to the State on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried,

Recalling also that the Agreement on the rescue of astronauts, the return of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space of 22 April 1968³ provides that a launching authority shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to the return of an object it has launched into outer space found beyond the territorial limits of the launching authority,

Recalling further that the Convention on international liability for damage caused by space objects of 29 March 1972⁴ establishes international rules and procedures concerning the liability of launching States for damage caused by their space objects,

Desiring, in the light 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, to make provision for the national registration by launching States of space objects launched into outer space,

Desiring further that a central register of objects launched into outer space be established and maintained, on a mandatory basis, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Desiring also to provide for States Parties additional means and procedures to assist in the identification of space objects,

Believing that a mandatory system of registering objects launched into outer space would, in particular, assist in their identification and would contribute to the application and development of international law governing the exploration and use of outer space,

Have agreed on the following:

¹ Came into force in respect of the States indicated hereafter on 15 September 1976, the date of deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with article VIII (3). Instruments of ratification or accession were deposited as follows:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
France.....	17 December 1975
Bulgaria.....	11 May 1976
Sweden.....	9 June 1976
Canada.....	4 August 1976
United States of America.....	15 September 1976

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, p. 205.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 672, p. 119.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 961, p. 187.

Article I. For the purposes of this Convention:

(a) The term "launching State" means:

- (i) a State which launches or procures the launching of a space object;
- (ii) a State from whose territory or facility a space object is launched;

(b) The term "space object" includes component parts of a space object as well as its launch vehicle and parts thereof;

(c) The term "State of registry" means a launching State on whose registry a space object is carried in accordance with article II.

Article II. 1. When a space object is launched into earth orbit or beyond, the launching State shall register the space object by means of an entry in an appropriate registry which it shall maintain. Each launching State shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the establishment of such a registry.

2. Where there are two or more launching States in respect of any such space object, they shall jointly determine which one of them shall register the object in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article, bearing in mind the provisions of article VIII 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 without prejudice to appropriate agreements concluded or to be concluded among the launching States on jurisdiction and control over the space object and over any personnel thereof.

3. The contents of each registry and the conditions under which it is maintained shall be determined by the State of registry concerned.

Article III. 1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall maintain a Register in which the information furnished in accordance with article IV shall be recorded.

2. There shall be full and open access to the information in this Register.

Article IV. 1. Each State of registry shall furnish to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as soon as practicable, the following information concerning each space object carried on its registry:

- (a) name of launching State or States;
- (b) an appropriate designator of the space object or its registration number;
- (c) date and territory or location of launch;
- (d) basic orbital parameters, including:
 - (i) nodal period,
 - (ii) inclination,
 - (iii) apogee,
 - (iv) perigee;
- (e) general function of the space object.

2. Each State of registry may, from time to time, provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with additional information concerning a space object carried on its registry.

3. Each State of registry shall notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the greatest extent feasible and as soon as practicable, of space objects concerning which it has previously transmitted information, and which have been but no longer are in earth orbit.

Article V. Whenever a space object launched into earth orbit or beyond is marked with the designator or registration number referred to in article IV, paragraph 1 (b), or both, the State of registry shall notify the Secretary-General of this fact when submitting the information regarding the space object in accordance with article IV. In such case, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall record this notification in the Register.

Article VI. Where the application of the provisions of this Convention has not enabled a State Party to identify a space object which has caused damage to it or to any of its natural or juridical persons, or which may be of a hazardous or deleterious nature, other States Parties, including in particular States possessing space monitoring and tracking facilities, shall respond to the greatest extent feasible to a request by that State Party, or transmitted through the Secretary-General on its behalf, for assistance under equitable and reasonable conditions in the identification of the object. A State Party making such a request shall, to the greatest extent feasible, submit information as to the time, nature and circumstances of the events giving rise to the request. Arrangements under which such assistance shall be rendered shall be the subject of agreement between the parties concerned.

Article VII. 1. In this Convention, with the exception of articles VIII to XII inclusive, references to States shall be deemed to apply to any international inter-governmental organization which conducts space activities if the organization declares its acceptance of the rights and obligations provided for in this Convention and if a majority of the States members of the organization are States Parties to this Convention 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.

2. States members of any such organization which are States Parties to this Convention shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the organization makes a declaration in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

Article VIII. 1. This Convention shall be open for signature by all States at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Any State which does not sign this Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. This Convention shall enter into force among the States which have deposited instruments of ratification on the deposit of the fifth such instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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

5. The Secretary-General 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 Convention, the date of its entry into force and other notices.

Article IX. Any State Party to this Convention may propose amendments to the Convention. Amendments shall enter into force for each State Party to the Convention accepting the amendments upon their acceptance by a majority of the States

Parties to the Convention and thereafter for each remaining State Party to the Convention on the date of acceptance by it.

Article X. Ten years after the entry into force of this Convention, the question of the review of the Convention shall be included in the provisional agenda of the United Nations General Assembly in order to consider, in the light of past application of the Convention, whether it requires revision. However, at any time after the Convention has been in force for five years, at the request of one third of the States Parties to the Convention and with the concurrence of the majority of the States Parties, a conference of the States Parties shall be convened to review this Convention. Such review shall take into account in particular any relevant technological developments, including those relating to the identification of space objects.

Article XI. Any State Party to this Convention may give notice of its withdrawal from the Convention one year after its entry into force by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such withdrawal shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of this notification.

Article XII. The original of this Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall send certified copies thereof to all signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention, opened for signature at New York on the fourteenth day of January one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five.

Hungary	13	Oct	1975	26	Oct	1977		
India				18	Jan	1982	a	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)			27	May	1975			
Japan				20	Jun	1983	a	
Mexico	19	Dec	1975	1	Mar	1977		
Mongolia		30	Oct	1975	10	Apr	1985	
Netherlands ⁶					26	Jan	1981	a
Nicaragua		13	May	1975				
Niger	5	Aug	1976	22	Dec	1976		
Norway				28	Jun	1995	a	
Pakistan		1	Dec	1975	27	Feb	1986	
Peru				21	Mar	1979	a	
Poland	4	Dec	1975	22	Nov	1978		
Republic of Korea						14	Oct	1981 a
Russian Federation			17	Jun	1975	13	Jan	1978
Schelles					28	Dec	1977	a
Singapore		31	Aug	1976				
Slovakia ³					28	May	1993	d
Spain				20	Dec	1978	a	
Sweden	9	Jun	1976	9	Jun	1976		
Switzerland		14	Apr	1975	15	Feb	1978	
Ukraine	11	Jul	1975	14	Sep	1977		
United Kingdom		6	May	1975	30	Mar	1978	
United States of America			24	Jan	1975	15	Sep	1976
Uruguay				18	Aug	1977	a	
Yugoslavia					24	Feb	1978	a

Organizations having declared acceptance of the rights and obligations of the Convention (article VII)

Organization

Date of receipt of the notification

European Space Agency 2 Jan 1979

Territorial Application

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of receipt of the notification</i>	<i>Territories</i>
United Kingdom	30 Mar 1978	Associated States (Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent). Territories under the territorial sovereignty of the United Kingdom, Solomon Islands, the State of Brunei

NOTES:

1 *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/9631)*, p. 16.

2 *Idem, Supplement No. 30 (A/9030)*, p. 19.

3 Czechoslovakia had signed and ratified the Convention on 5 April 1976 and 26 July 1977, respectively. See also note in chapter I.2.

4 The German Democratic Republic had signed and ratified the Convention on 27 August 1975 and 12 May 1977, respectively. See also note in chapter I.2.

5 In a communication accompanying the instrument of ratification, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany declared that the said Convention shall also apply to Berlin (West) with effect from the date on which it enters into force for the Federal Republic of Germany.

See also note 4 above.

For the Kingdom in Europe and the Netherlands Antilles. See also note in chapter I.1.

Convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. Done at New York January 14, 1975; entered into force September 15, 1976. 28 UST 695; TIAS 8480; 1023 UNTS 15.

Parties:

Antigua & Barbuda	Czech Rep.	Korea, Rep.	Seychelles
Argentina	Czechoslovakia	Mexico	Slovak Rep.
Australia	Denmark	Mongolia	Solomon Is.
Austria	Dominica	Netherlands	Spain
Belarus	European Space Agency	Niger	Sweden
Belgium	France	Norway	Switzerland
Brunei	Germany,	Pakistan	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Dem. Rep.	Peru	USSR
Canada	Germany,	Poland	United Kingdom
Chile	Fed. Rep.	Russian Fed.	United States
China	Hungary	St. Kitts & Nevis	Uruguay
Cuba	India	St. Lucia	Yugoslavia
Cyprus	Japan	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	