

No. 8843

**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, AFGHANISTAN, ARGENTINA, etc.**

Treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies. Opened for signature at Moscow, London and Washington, on 27 January 1967

Official texts: English, Russian, French, Spanish and Chinese.

Registered by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on 30 November 1967.

**UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES, ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD, ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE,
AFGHANISTAN, ARGENTINE, etc.**

Traité sur les principes régissant les activités des États en matière d'exploration et d'utilisation de l'espace extra-atmosphérique, y compris la lune et les autres corps célestes. Ouvert à la signature à Moscou, Londres et Washington, le 27 janvier 1967

Textes officiels anglais, russe, français, espagnol et chinois.

Enregistré par l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques, le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord et les États-Unis d'Amérique le 30 novembre 1967.

No. 8843. TREATY¹ ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE, INCLUDING THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES. OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AT MOSCOW, LONDON AND WASHINGTON, ON 27 JANUARY 1967

The States Parties to this Treaty,

Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

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

¹ Came into force on 10 October 1967, the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification by five Governments, including the Governments designated as Depositary Governments under the Treaty, i.e., the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article XIV.

Instruments of ratification were deposited on the dates indicated as follows :

	<i>With the Government of the USSR</i>		<i>With the Government of the United Kingdom</i>		<i>With the Government of the United States of America</i>	
Australia	10 October	1967	10 October	1967	10 October	1967
Bulgaria	28 March	1967	19 April	1967	11 April	1967
Canada	10 October	1967	10 October	1967	10 October	1967
Czechoslovakia	18 May	1967	11 May	1967	22 May	1967
Denmark	10 October	1967	10 October	1967	10 October	1967
Finland	12 July	1967	12 July	1967	12 July	1967
German Democratic Republic	2 February	1967				
Hungary	26 June	1967	26 June	1967	26 June	1967
Japan	10 October	1967	10 October	1967	10 October	1967
Mongolia	10 October	1967				
Nepal	16 October	1967	10 October	1967		
Niger			17 April	1967	3 May	1967
Republic of Korea					13 October	1967
Sierra Leone	13 July	1967	25 October	1967	14 July	1967
Sweden	11 October	1967	11 October	1967	11 October	1967
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	31 October	1967				
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	10 October	1967	10 October	1967	10 October	1967
United Arab Republic					10 October	1967
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*	10 October	1967	10 October	1967	10 October	1967
United States of America	10 October	1967	10 October	1967	10 October	1967

*The United Kingdom ratification is in respect of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Associated States (Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla and Saint Lucia) and Territories under the territorial sovereignty of the United Kingdom, as well as the State of Brunei, the Kingdom of Swaziland, the Kingdom of Tonga and the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. At the time of depositing its instrument of ratification the United Kingdom declared that it reserves the right not to apply this Treaty to Southern Rhodesia unless and until the United Kingdom informs the other depositary Governments that it is in a position to ensure that the obligations imposed by the Treaty in respect of that territory can be fully implemented.

Believing that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for the benefit of all peoples irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development,

Desiring to contribute to broad international co-operation in the scientific as well as the legal aspects of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Believing that such co-operation will contribute to the development of mutual understanding and to the strengthening of friendly relations between States and peoples,

Recalling resolution 1962 (XVIII), entitled “ Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space ”, which was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 1963,¹

Recalling resolution 1884 (XVIII), calling upon States to refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction or from installing such weapons on celestial bodies, which was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 October 1963,²

Taking account of United Nations General Assembly resolution 110 (II) of 3 November 1947,³ which condemned propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression, and considering that the aforementioned resolution is applicable to outer space,

Convinced that a Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, will further the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Have agreed on the following :

Article I

The exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind.

Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a

¹ United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/5515)*, p. 15.

² United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/5515)*, p. 13.

³ United Nations, *Official Records of the Second Session of the General Assembly*, p. 14.

basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies.

There shall be freedom of scientific investigation in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, and States shall facilitate and encourage international co-operation in such investigation.

Article II

Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

Article III

States Parties to the Treaty shall carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding.

Article IV

States Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, instal such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner.

The moon and other celestial bodies shall be used by all States Parties to the Treaty exclusively for peaceful purposes. The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manœuvres on celestial bodies shall be forbidden. The use of military personnel for scientific research or for any other peaceful purposes shall not be prohibited. The use of any equipment or facility necessary for peaceful exploration of the moon and other celestial bodies shall also not be prohibited.

Article V

States Parties to the Treaty shall regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space and shall render to them all possible assistance in the event of accident, distress, or emergency landing on the territory of another State Party or on the high seas. When astronauts make such a landing, they shall be safely and promptly returned to the State of registry of their space vehicle.

In carrying on activities in outer space and on celestial bodies, the astronauts of one State Party shall render all possible assistance to the astronauts of other States Parties.

States Parties to the Treaty shall immediately inform the other States Parties to the Treaty or the Secretary-General of the United Nations of any phenomena they discover in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, which could constitute a danger to the life or health of astronauts.

Article VI

States Parties to the Treaty shall bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, whether such activities are carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for assuring that national activities are carried out in conformity with the provisions set forth in the present Treaty. The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty. When activities are carried on in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, by an international organization, responsibility for compliance with this Treaty shall be borne both by the international organization and by the States Parties to the Treaty participating in such organization.

Article VII

Each State Party to the Treaty that launches or procures the launching of an object into outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, and each State Party from whose territory or facility an object is launched, is internationally liable for damage to another State Party to the Treaty or to its natural or juridical persons by such object or its component parts on the Earth, in air space or in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies.

Article VIII

A State Party to the Treaty on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried shall retain jurisdiction and control over such object, and over any personnel thereof, while in outer space or on a celestial body. Ownership of objects launched into outer space, including objects landed or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, is not affected by their presence in outer space or on a celestial body or by their return to the Earth. Such objects or component parts found beyond the limits of the State Party to the Treaty on whose registry they are carried shall be returned to that State Party, which shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to their return.

Article IX

In the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, States Parties to the Treaty shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance and shall conduct all their activities in