

UNITED NATIONS TREATIES ON SATELLITES

ECE 514E – SATELLITE & RADAR SYSTEMS

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OUTER SPACE TREATIES

The international community faced, in the early 1960s, the need to create a legal regime applicable to the exploration and use of outer space.

Since 1967 five treaties and several declarations of principles have been developed, i.e.

1. The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies. Also called the Outer Space Treaty (OST)
2. The Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer space.
3. The Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.
4. The Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer space.
5. The Agreement governing the activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies.

1. Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space

- 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.

DIRECT BENEFITS

1. Advancement of scientific knowledge
2. Use of space innovations for new applications
3. New economic opportunities
4. Strengthening of international relationships

INDIRECT BENEFITS

1. Improved safety
2. Medical benefits
3. Setting pace for space exploration

2. Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer space

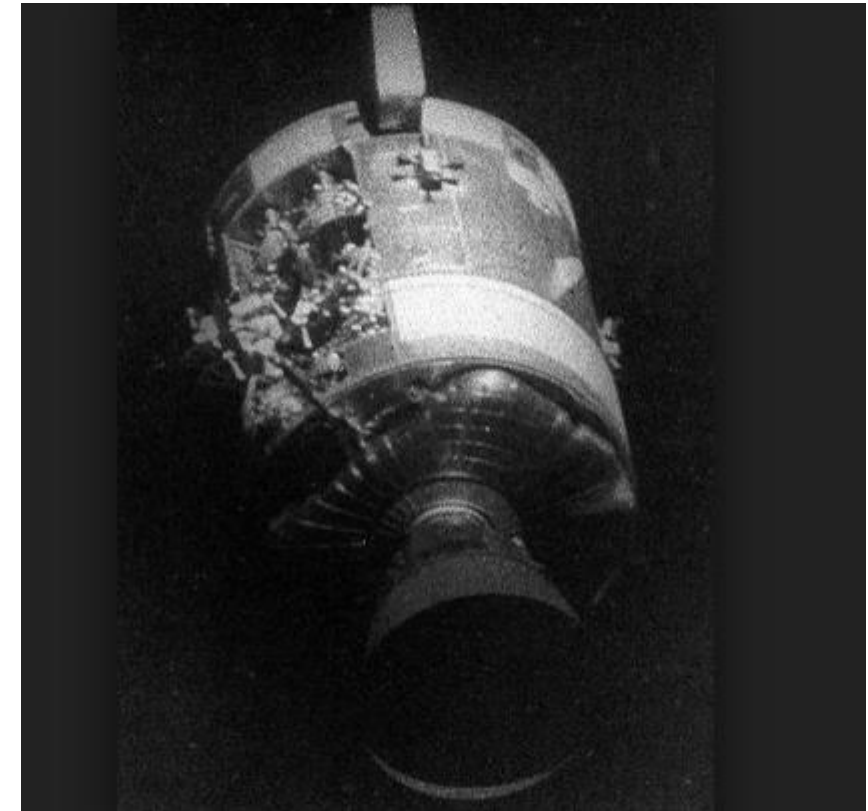
Each Contracting Party which **receives information or discovers that the personnel of a spacecraft have suffered accident or are experiencing conditions of distress or have made an emergency or unintended landing in territory under its jurisdiction** or on the high seas or in any other place not under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



3. Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects

In the event of damage being caused elsewhere than on the surface of the Earth to a space object of one launching State or to persons or property on board such a space object by a space object of another launching State, the latter shall be **liable only if the damage is due to its fault or the fault of persons for whom it is responsible.**



(a) Damaged Apollo 13 spacecraft

4. Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer space.

- 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.
- 2.** Each **launching State shall inform the Secretary-General** of the United Nations of the establishment of such a registry.
- 3.** The **Secretary-General of the United Nations shall maintain a Register** in which the information furnished in accordance with article IV shall be recorded.
- 4.** There shall be **full and open access to the information** in this Register



5. Agreement governing the activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies

- 1. All activities on the Moon, including its exploration and use, shall be carried out in accordance with international law,** in particular the Charter of the United Nations, and taking into account the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,⁵ adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and mutual understanding, and with due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties.
- 2. The Moon shall be used by all States Parties exclusively for peaceful purposes.**