



TAB 75

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
LIMITED

A/AC.105/C.2/L.2/Rev.2  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE  
Legal Sub-Committee

USSR: revised draft

AGREEMENT

on the rescue of astronauts and spacecrafts in the  
event of accident or emergency landing

The Governments of . . . . .

Considering that all mankind is interested in the peaceful uses of outer space,

Desiring to promote the further development of international co-operation in the conquest of outer space,

Recognizing that it is the duty of all States to assist astronauts and spacecrafts in the event of accident or emergency landing,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII), entitled "Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space",

Prompted by sentiments of humanity and having regard for the needs of science,  
Have decided to conclude an agreement as follows:

Article 1

General obligations

1. Each Contracting State shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, render all possible assistance to the crews of spacecrafts in the event of accident, distress or emergency landing; to this end it shall employ every means at its disposal, including electronic and optical equipment, means of communication, and rescue facilities of various kinds.

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2. Each Contracting State shall foster international co-operation in the conduct of operations to find and salvage space objects launched in accordance with the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

#### Article 2

##### Notification of accident

Each Contracting State whose authorities in some way receive information or discover that the crew of a spaceship of another State have suffered accident or are experiencing conditions of distress or have made an emergency landing shall do their utmost to notify without delay the State which officially announced its launching of the said spaceship, and shall in addition immediately notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### Article 3

##### Assistance in the territory of a Contracting State

1. In the event that astronauts make an emergency landing, owing to accident or distress, in the territory of a Contracting State, that State shall immediately take all possible steps, within the limits of the means at its disposal, to rescue the astronauts and to render them the necessary assistance. It shall inform the State which officially announced its launching of the spaceship concerned, and also the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of the steps taken and of their result.
2. The assistance to be furnished when necessary by one Contracting State to astronauts of another State shall in no way differ from the assistance which could be furnished to its own astronauts.
3. If the Contracting State in whose territory the astronauts have landed is unable to carry out the necessary rescue operations unaided, it shall request the State which officially announced its launching of the spaceship concerned to co-operate with it with a view to the effective conduct of operations in its territory to find and rescue the crew of the spaceship.

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#### Article 4

##### Assistance outside the territory of a Contracting State

If information is received or it is discovered that astronauts have alighted, owing to accident or distress, on the high seas or in any other place not under the sovereignty of any State, search and rescue operations shall be conducted by such Contracting States as are in a position to carry out these operations. These operations shall be directed by the State which officially announced its launching of the spaceship concerned or by such other State as it may request to take charge thereof.

#### Article 5

##### Obligation to return the crew

Each Contracting State shall do its utmost to facilitate the earliest possible return to their own country of the crew of a spaceship which was launched in accordance with the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space and which has met with an accident, been in distress or made an emergency landing in its territory or which it has rescued elsewhere.

#### Article 6

##### Return of space objects

1. Each Contracting State which receives information or discovers that an object launched into outer space or component parts thereof have returned to earth shall notify without delay the State which officially announced its launching of that space object and shall in addition immediately notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Each Contracting State shall, at the request of the State which officially announced the launching thereof, return to that State foreign spaceships, satellites and capsules launched in accordance with the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, together with the equipment they contain, or parts of any such objects, discovered in its territory or found by it elsewhere.

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3. The State which officially announced its launching of the objects into outer space shall, before they are returned, furnish identifying particulars thereof at the request of the State which has discovered such objects in its territory or recovered them elsewhere.

4. The expenses incurred by a State in fulfilling the obligations prescribed in paragraph 2 of this article shall be reimbursed by the State to which a space object is returned.

#### Final provisions

#### Article 7

This Agreement shall be open for signature by all States. Any State which does not sign this Agreement before its entry into force in accordance with article 9 may accede to it at any time.

#### Article 8

This Agreement shall be subject to ratification by the States which have signed it. Instruments of ratification and of accession shall be deposited with the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, which are hereby appointed the depositary Governments.

#### Article 9

This Agreement shall enter into force upon the deposit of the second instrument of ratification or of accession. For a State which has ratified this Agreement or acceded thereto, it shall enter into force upon the deposit of that State's instrument of ratification or of accession.

#### Article 10

The depositary Governments shall immediately notify all States which have signed and acceded to this Agreement of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification and of accession and the date of entry into force of this Agreement, and also of other notifications.

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Article 11

This Agreement shall be registered by the depositary Governments in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 12

This Agreement, of which the texts in the Russian, Chinese, English, French and Spanish languages are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of this Agreement shall be transmitted by the depositary Governments to the Governments of States which have signed the Agreement or acceded thereto.

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