

# LEGAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE COOPERATION

### JAY STEPTOE DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



#### BACKGROUND

# UNITED NATIONS: 1996 "DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE FOR THE BENEFIT AND IN THE INTEREST OF ALL STATES, TAKING INTO PARTICULAR ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES"



#### BACKGROUND

Annex, Paragraph 2. STATES ARE FREE TO DETERMINE ALL ASPECTS OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE ON AN EQUITABLE AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS. CONTRACTUAL TERMS IN SUCH COOPERATIVE VENTURES SHOULD BE FAIR AND REASONABLE AND THEY SHOULD BE IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED AS, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.



#### BACKGROUND

Annex, Paragraph 3. ALL STATES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH RELEVANT SPACE CAPABILITIES AND WITH PROGRAMMES FOR THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE, SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PROMOTING AND FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON AN EQUITABLE AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS. IN THIS CONTEXT, PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE BENEFIT FOR AND THE INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND COUNTRIES WITH INCIPIENT SPACE PROGRAMMES STEMMING FROM SUCH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CONDUCTED WITH COUNTRIES WITH MORE ADVANCED SPACE CAPABILITIES





- TO ESTABLISH BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT THE LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATES TO GOVERN THE CONDUCT OF JOINT SPACE ACTIVITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW
- THE PROVIDE NATIONAL SPACE AGENCIES THE LEGAL CAPACITY TO ENTER INTO "IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS" AND OTHER SUBORDINATE TECHNICAL UNDERSTANDINGS FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES





- BY THESE MEANS, THEREBY TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE A BROAD RANGE OF COOPERATIVE AND OTHER SPACE-RELATED ACTIVITIES BETWEEN AND AMONG MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES OF THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.
- LEGAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS ARE ESPECIALLY USEFUL TO DEEPEN COOPERATION BETWEEN TRADITIONAL SPACE-FARING NATIONS



# DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

#### THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO DESIGN, DEVELOP, OPERATE AND UTILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CAN BE CONSIDERED THE FIRST MAJOR FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR SPACE COOPERATION

#### THE UNITED STATES HAS SINCE CONCLUDED FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS WITH 14 COUNTRIES

• AN EARLY EXAMPLE WAS A LIMITED AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN TO ADDRESS LIABILITY FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES CONCLUDED IN 1995; IT IS STILL IN EFFECT



# DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

#### •THE SCOPE AND CONTENT OF U.S. SPACE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY SIMILAR OVER TIME

•AN EMERGING INTERNATIONAL "STANDARD"





#### FIELDS OF POTENTIAL COOPERATIONS (EXAMPLES):

- SPACE SCIENCE
- EARTH SCIENCE
- SPACE OPERATIONS AND EXPLORATION
- **AERONAUTICS**
- EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY
- SPACE TRANSPORTATION





#### THE JOINT ACTIVITIES MAY BE IMPLEMENTED USING:

# •SPACECRAFT AND SPACE RESEARCH PLATFORMS •SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS ONBOARD SPACECRAFT AND SPACE RESEARCH PLATFORMS •SOUNDING ROCKET AND SCIENTIFIC BALLOON FLIGHTS AND CAMPAIGNS •AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS AND CAMPAIGNS •GROUND-BASED ANTENNAS FOR TRACKING AND DATA ACQUISITION





JOINT ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED):

#### •GROUND-BASED SPACE RESEARCH FACILITIES •EXCHANGES OF SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS OR OTHER EXPERTS ON GENERAL OR SPECIFIC SUBJECTS •EXCHANGES OF SCIENTIFIC DATA •EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES •OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION AS AGREED BETWEEN THE PARTIES





- FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
- DUTIES, FEES, AND TAXES
- ENTRY AND EXIT OF PERSONNEL
- OVERFLIGHT OF TERRITORY
- TRANSFER OF GOODS AND TECHNICAL DATA
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
- LIABILITY
- **REGISTRATION OF SPACE OBJECTS**
- CONSULTATIONS AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES