

55th IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
Nandasiri Jasentuliyana Keynote Lecture on Space Law & 4th Young Scholars Session (1)

Author: Mr. Christopher Johnson
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), United States

Ms. Joyeeta Chatterjee
Institute of Air and Space Law, McGill University, Canada

Ms. Aleksandra Puscinska
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Poland

Mr. OLUSOJI NESTER JOHN
National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Nigeria

NATIONAL SPACE LEGISLATION FOR EMERGING SPACE-CAPABLE NATIONS

Abstract

The Space Generation Advisory Council is an international group of young professionals and students from around the world interested in outer space. Within the SGAC membership, those interested in and pursuing legal training related to the legal aspects of outer space will soon establish a Space Law Working group. One of the focuses of the group is investigating the role and importance of national space legislation. In addition to many large and established space-faring nations with large space agencies and long heritages of space capability, many more nations are becoming space capable. In the African continent, Nigeria, South Africa, and Maghreb countries are cooperating and coordinating their space activities. In Europe, ESA membership is growing - as are domestic European space agencies. In the future, many new companies and many more countries will increase the size and scope of the space field. Consequently, the need for rational, efficient, and balanced national space legislation for countries previously lacking it will become more and more clear. This paper will first examine existing national space legislation - looking to see common themes and crucial hallmarks - and will then develop a list of guidelines which emerging space capable nations might use to craft their national legislation. Insights from existing national experience, along with cross-disciplinary takeaways from international relations theory and economics, and the overriding requirements from public international space law should intelligently inform any crafting of national space legislation.