

22nd SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)

Space policies and programmes of international organizations with particular regard to the participation of developing countries (2)

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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS: CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME
ON SPACE LAW

Abstract

Capacity-building, training and education in space law is of a paramount importance to international, regional and national efforts in furthering the development of space activities. This is particularly important in relation to promoting broader understanding and acceptance of the international legal framework that governs space activities. The need to build indigenous capacity in space law and policy, particularly in developing countries, was recognized by the Third United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held in Vienna in 1999, and emphasized by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). In 2008 the General Assembly, in its Resolution 63/90, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that its Legal Subcommittee should consider "Capacity-building in space law" as an agenda item for discussion.

In line with this, under its capacity-building programme on space law, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) continues to promote the understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, to support the exchange of information on national space law and policy and to encourage the increase of education opportunities in space law.

This paper will analyze the role of the United Nations in this field and highlight the activities carried on by UNOOSA under its capacity-building programme on space law.