

# 1 **The Outer Space Treaty of 1967**

## 2 **Preamble**

3 Treaty on principles governing the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space,  
4 including the moon and other celestial bodies.

5 Opened for signature at Moscow, London, and Washington on 27 January, 1967

6 THE STATES PARTIES. TO THIS TREATY,

7 INSPIRED by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry  
8 into outer space,

9 RECOGNIZING the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration  
10 and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

11 BELIEVING that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for the  
12 benefit of all peoples irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development,

13 DESIRING to contribute to broad international co-operation in the scientific as well as  
14 the legal aspects of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

15 BELIEVING that such co-operation will contribute to the development of mutual  
16 understanding and to the strengthening of friendly relations between States and peoples,

17 RECALLING resolution 1962 (XVIII), entitled "Declaration of Legal Principles  
18 Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space", which was  
19 adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 1963,

20 RECALLING resolution 1884 (XVIII), calling upon States to refrain from placing in  
21 orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of  
22 mass destruction or from installing such weapons on celestial bodies, which was adopted  
23 unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 October 1963,

24 TAKING account of United Nations General Assembly resolution 110 (II) of 3  
25 November 1947, which condemned propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage  
26 any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression, and considering that the  
27 aforementioned resolution is applicable to outer space,

28 CONVINCED that a Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the  
29 Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, will  
30 further the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1 **Articles**

2 HAVE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

3 **Article I**

4 The exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be  
5 carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of  
6 economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind.

7 Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration  
8 and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in  
9 accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies.

10 There shall be freedom of scientific investigation in outer space, including the moon  
11 and other celestial bodies, and States shall facilitate and encourage international co-operation  
12 in such investigation.

13 **Article II**

14 Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national  
15 appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

16 **Article III**

17 States Parties to the Treaty shall carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space,  
18 including the moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law, including  
19 the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and  
20 security and promoting international co- operation and understanding.

21 **Article IV**

22 States Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the earth any objects  
23 carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such  
24 weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner.

25 The moon and other celestial bodies shall be used by all States Parties to the Treaty  
26 exclusively for peaceful purposes. The establishment of military bases, installations and  
27 fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on  
28 celestial bodies shall be forbidden. The use of military personnel for scientific research or for  
29 any other peaceful purposes shall not be prohibited. The use of any equipment or facility  
30 necessary for peaceful exploration of the moon and other celestial bodies shall also not be  
31 prohibited.

1    **Article V**

2    In carrying on activities in outer space and on celestial bodies, the astronauts of one State  
3    Party shall render all possible assistance to the astronauts of other States Parties.

4    **Article VI**

5    States Parties to the Treaty shall bear international responsibility for national activities in outer  
6    space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, whether such activities are carried on by  
7    governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for assuring that national  
8    activities are carried out in conformity with the provisions set forth in the present Treaty. The  
9    activities of non-governmental entities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial  
10   bodies, shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to  
11   the Treaty. When activities are carried on in outer space, including the moon and other  
12   celestial bodies, by an international organization, responsibility for compliance with this  
13   Treaty shall be borne both by the international organization and by the States Parties to the  
14   Treaty participating in such organization.

15   **Article VII**

16   Each State Party to the Treaty that launches or procures the launching of an object into outer  
17   space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, and each State Party from whose  
18   territory or facility an object is launched, is internationally liable for damage to another State  
19   Party to the Treaty or to its natural or juridical persons by such object or its component parts  
20   on the Earth, in air space or in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies.

21   **Article VIII**

22   A State Party to the Treaty on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried  
23   shall retain jurisdiction and control over such object, and over any personnel thereof, while in  
24   outer space or on a celestial body. Ownership of objects launched into outer space, including  
25   objects landed or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, is not affected  
26   by their presence in outer space or on a celestial body or by their return to the Earth. Such  
27   objects or component parts found beyond the limits of the State Party of the Treaty on whose  
28   registry they are carried shall be returned to that State Party, which shall, upon request, furnish  
29   identifying data prior to their return.

30   **Article IX**

31   In the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, States  
32   Parties to the Treaty shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance and  
33   shall conduct all their activities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies,  
34   with due regard to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties to the Treaty. States

1 Parties to the Treaty shall pursue studies of outer space, including the moon and other celestial  
2 bodies, and conduct exploration of them so as to avoid their harmful contamination and also  
3 adverse changes in the environment of the Earth resulting from the introduction of  
4 extraterrestrial matter and, where necessary, shall adopt appropriate measures for this purpose.  
5 If a State Party to the Treaty has reason to believe that an activity or experiment planned by it  
6 or its nationals in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, would cause  
7 potentially harmful interference with activities of other States Parties in the peaceful  
8 exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, it shall  
9 undertake appropriate international consultations before proceeding with any such activity or  
10 experiment. A State Party to the Treaty which has reason to believe that an activity or  
11 experiment planned by another State Party in outer space, including the moon and other  
12 celestial bodies, would cause potentially harmful interference with activities in the peaceful  
13 exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, may request  
14 consultation concerning the activity or experiment.

#### 15 **Article X**

16 In order to promote international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space,  
17 including the moon and other celestial bodies, in conformity with the purposes of this Treaty,  
18 the States Parties to the Treaty shall consider on a basis of equality any requests by other  
19 States Parties to the Treaty to be afforded an opportunity to observe the flight of space objects  
20 launched by those States.

21 The nature of such an opportunity for observation and the conditions under which it  
22 could be afforded shall be determined by agreement between the States concerned.

#### 23 **Article XI**

24 In order to promote international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer  
25 space, States Parties to the Treaty conducting activities in outer space, including the moon and  
26 other celestial bodies, agree to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as  
27 the public and the international scientific community, to the greatest extent feasible and  
28 practicable, of the nature, conduct, locations and results of such activities. On receiving the  
29 said information, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should be prepared to  
30 disseminate it immediately and effectively.

#### 31 **Article XII**

32 All stations, installations, equipment and space vehicles on the moon and other celestial bodies  
33 shall be open to representatives of other States Parties to the Treaty on a basis of reciprocity.  
34 Such representatives shall give reasonable advance notice of a projected visit, in order that

1 appropriate consultations may be held and that maximum precautions may be taken to assure  
2 safety and to avoid interference with normal operations in the facility to be visited.

### 3 **Article XIII**

4 The provisions of this Treaty shall apply to the activities of States Parties to the Treaty in the  
5 exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, whether  
6 such activities are carried on by a single State Party to the Treaty or jointly with other States,  
7 including cases where they are carried on within the framework of international inter-  
8 governmental organizations.

9 Any practical questions arising in connection with activities carried on by international  
10 inter-governmental organizations in the exploration and use of outer space, including the  
11 moon and other celestial bodies, shall be resolved by the States Parties to the Treaty either  
12 with the appropriate international organization or with one or more States members of that  
13 international organization, which are Parties to this Treaty.

### 14 **Article XIV**

15 1. This Treaty shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign  
16 this Treaty before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article may  
17 accede to it at any time.

18 2. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of  
19 ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Governments of the  
20 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist  
21 Republics and the United States of America, which are hereby designated the Depositary  
22 Governments.

23 3. This Treaty shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by  
24 five Governments including the Governments designated as Depositary Governments under  
25 this Treaty.

26 4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to  
27 the entry into force of this Treaty, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their  
28 instruments of ratification or accession.

29 5. The Depositary Governments shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States  
30 of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification of and  
31 accession to this Treaty, the date of its entry into force and other notices.

32 6. This Treaty shall be registered by the Depositary Governments pursuant to Article  
33 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

1 **Article XV**

2 Any State Party to the Treaty may propose amendments to this Treaty. Amendments shall  
3 enter into force for each State Party to the Treaty accepting the amendments upon their  
4 acceptance by a majority of the States Parties to the Treaty and thereafter for each remaining  
5 State Party to the Treaty on the date of acceptance by it.

6 **Article XVI**

7 Any State Party to the Treaty may give notice of its withdrawal from the Treaty one year after  
8 its entry into force by written notification to the Depositary Governments. Such withdrawal  
9 shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of this notification.

10 **Article XVII**

11 This Treaty, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally  
12 authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Depositary Governments. Duly certified  
13 copies of this Treaty shall be transmitted by the Depositary Governments to the Governments  
14 of the signatory and acceding States.

15 **Ratification**

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised, have signed this Treaty.

17 DONE in triplicate, at the cities of London, Moscow and Washington, the twenty-seventh day  
18 of January, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven.