



General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

National legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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II. Replies received from States members of the Committee

Czechia

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[15 December 2017]

Czechia does not yet have national legislation relating to outer space activities, and no existing national legislation contains a regulation that would have any direct or indirect relevance to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space.

Although some principles of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, require a definition of outer space, given the absence of agreement within the international community on the definition and delimitation of both airspace and outer space, and in view of the need to move forward with the matter in order to facilitate outer space activities, Czechia is inclined towards a functional approach that takes into account the current level of technical and scientific development of air and outer space activities.

South Africa

[Original: English]
[12 December 2017]

Space Affairs Act of 1993, as amended in 1995

In the Space Affairs Act of 1993, as amended in 1995, outer space is defined as “the space above the surface of the Earth from a height at which it is in practice possible to operate an object in an orbit around the Earth”.

Civil Aviation Act No. 13 of 2009

The International Civil Aviation Organization does not prescribe the level at which airspace begins and ends. As a result, there are no formal prescripts in South Africa that delimit its extent. However, there is a general understanding (though not formalized) that airspace extends as far as 100 km, or approximately 327,000 feet, above sea level. Currently, aviation utilizes up to 15 km, or 50,000 feet, of airspace, and that is dependent on the highest capability level of the aircraft currently in use.

Furthermore, South Africa has enacted the Civil Aviation Act, which gives effect to the provisions of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed in Chicago, United States of America, on 7 December 1944. The Convention, which is set out in Schedule 3 of the Act, prescribes that States have complete sovereignty over the airspace in their territory. Neither the Act nor the Convention prescribes the delimitation of the airspace.