



General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Questions on suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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III. Replies received from permanent observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

World Health Organization

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To date there has been no commercial suborbital space tourism flight. However, in view of the accelerated developments in the area of suborbital travel and emerging discussions on space tourism and human transportation by means of suborbital flights, the definition of outer space will be essential in the context of travellers' health, as well as in defining on-board health and safety and related essential medicines and medical devices.

Given the need to ensure the safety of travellers on suborbital spaceflights, who would experience high speeds, the rapid attainment of altitude and the effects of zero gravity and weightlessness, the definition of outer space would become important, as member States might develop country-specific health regulations governing such suborbital space travel.

The legal definition of suborbital flights for human transportation will be practically useful for member States and non-State actors in setting health-research agendas related to the effects of zero gravity on the human body, as well as extreme stress conditions, and ensuring compliance with national health and public safety regulations.

Before June 2017, the secretariat of the World Health Organization (WHO) would like to discuss the topic "Definition of suborbital flights for human transportation" through a special task force or ad hoc committee of the World Health Assembly and the engagement of technical agencies responsible for space flights within our member States.

The WHO secretariat wishes to consult member States regarding the applicability of country-specific legislation and will compile and provide feedback before June 2017.