

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
AIR AND SPACE LAW

The Registration Convention: Background And Historical Context

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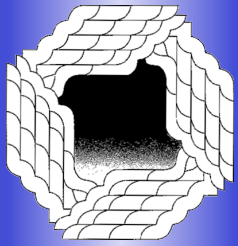


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1



General remarks

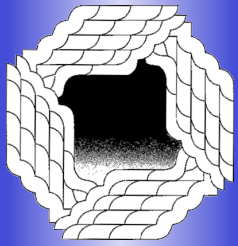
- 4th out of 5 conventions COPUOS
- 1974 → 1975 → 1976
- Ratification:
 - 43; 4 more signatures
 - Cf. Outer Space Treaty: 96/27; Rescue Agreement 87/26; Liability Convention 81/26
 - Cf. also Moon Agreement 10/5
 - N.B.: incl. most important space powers

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2



Main characteristics

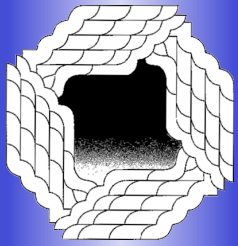
- Relatively simple & down-to-earth
 - Only 12 Articles
 - One concept: registration of space objects
- Relationship with other treaties
 - Rescue Agreement & Liability Convention
 - ◆ Elaborating specific Articles Outer Space Treaty
 - ◆ Art. VIII, OST: registration & jurisdiction
 - ◆ Package-deal character → 'role' Registration Convention

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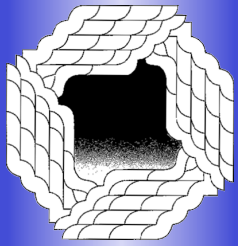
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Main elements of the regime

- Obligations *space-faring nations*
- For non-space-faring nations:
 - Right to formal protest as such
 - ◆ NB 1: loopholes & escape clauses
 - ◆ NB 2: lack of sanctioning mechanisms
 - ◆ NB 3: role UN Secretary-General
 - Art. VI: right to assistance...
 - ◆ ...but essentially obligation of effort...
 - ◆ ... and subject to further agreement...



Concluding remarks

- Main interest: *having space-faring nations ratify...*
 - ...no specific need for non-space-faring nations to ratify
- ➔ More successful than it seems
- ➔ Reinforce in terms of substance
 - Tighten & expand parameters
 - Include parameters reflecting developments in technology & commercial areas

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5