**Synopsis Benchmark Study on the Regulation of Space Activities for the CSA**

The objective of this international benchmark study was to provide the Canadian Space Agency with a profound understanding of the risks and challenges throughout the lifecycle of existing and emerging space missions and how those risk and challenges are addressed through regulation in other countries, as well as identify best practices among those regulatory approaches, with a view to possible further legislative and regulatory development in the space domain within Canada.

To this end, the study first described the lifecycle of space missions, notably (1) development phase, (2) launch phase, (3) operation phase, and (4) termination phase, for seven categories of space missions: (1) generic space missions, (2) Earth observation, (3) satellite communications, (4) space resource utilization, (5) space surveillance, (6) in-space missions and (7) scientific missions. Using this template, the study then analysed the relevant application of international law and regulation to those categories of missions in the respective lifecycle phases, followed by an analysis of six major spacefaring countries’ national space legislation from the same perspective: (1) United States, (2) United Kingdom, (3) France, (4) Germany, (5) Australia and (6) New Zealand. The study concluded by highlighting relevant best practices and legal gaps in order to allow the Canadian Space Agency to make informed decisions about possible further national legislative or regulatory initiatives in Canada.