



## **Webinar on Space Law for Emerging Space Actors**

Time & Date: 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM (India Standard Time); 20 November 2024

Mode: Virtual (Zoom Webinar)

Space exploration and utilisation are becoming increasingly accessible to a wider range of nations, creating a growing need for comprehensive domestic legal frameworks to govern space activities. While several established space-faring nations have already developed space laws and policies to regulate and encourage non-governmental space activities within their jurisdictions, emerging space actors face unique challenges in crafting appropriate legislation that complies with international space law treaties and principles.

The topic “Legal Issues in Outer Space” was incorporated into the Organization’s agenda following a proposal by India at the Sixty-first Annual Session in Bali, Indonesia, in 2023. This initiative was further developed during the Sixty-Second Annual Session held in Bangkok, Thailand, in September 2024, where in-depth deliberations took place. These discussions highlighted the multifaceted challenges arising from the proliferation of space activities by various state and non-state actors, encompassing issues of safety, security, environmental protection, and a myriad of legal complexities. AALCO Member States emphasised the critical need to preserve outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes, expressing concerns about potential weaponization. The Bangkok session also highlighted the importance of capacity-building in space law for emerging space actors. In response to these developments and to support collaborative dialogue on establishing inclusive and peace-oriented governance structures for outer space, the AALCO Secretariat has organised this webinar.

The webinar aims to explore the significance of space law-making for new entrants to the space sector, examine how the experiences of mature space powers in Asia, Europe, and North America can inform these processes, and emphasise the importance of aligning national legislation with international space law.

## **Objectives**

The key objectives of this webinar are:

1. To highlight the importance of developing national space legislation for emerging space actors that adheres to international space law
2. To identify key legal and regulatory considerations for countries entering the space sector, including compliance with UN space treaties
3. To analyse experiences of AALCO Member States and other nations in space law-making and draw lessons for emerging space actors
4. To discuss potential areas of cooperation between established and emerging space actors in legal matters and promoting international space law compliance

## **Programme**

The webinar will feature two panel sessions:

2:00 – 2:10 PM (IST)

### **Opening Remarks:**

- H.E. Dr. Kamalinne Pinitpuvadol, Secretary-General of AALCO

2:10 – 2:30 PM (IST)

### **Opening Address:**

- H.E. Mrs. Suphanvasa Chotikajan Tang, Director-General of the Department of

Treaties and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and the President of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session of AALCO

- Ms. Uma Sekhar, Additional Secretary, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, India

### **Panel 1: Pioneering Space Law in Asia and Africa**

2:30 – 3:45 PM (IST)

*Moderator: Mr. Kiran Mohan Vazhapully, Senior Legal Officer, AALCO*

Panellists:

1. Dr. NAKAMURA Kimitake, Director-General/Assistant-Minister (Ambassador)  
Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.
  2. Dr. Ranjana Kaul, space law expert and Partner, Dua Associates, New Delhi
  3. Ms. Ruvimbo Samanga, Space policy analyst and Research Fellow, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Q&A session with participants***

**Panel 2: International Experiences in Space Regulation**

4:00 -5:30 PM (IST)

*Moderator: Mr. Kiran Mohan Vazhapully, Senior Legal Officer, AALCO*

Panellists:

1. Ms. Rossana Hoffman, Project Lead, Space Law for New Space Actors, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
  2. Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, President, International Institute of Space Law (IISL)
  3. Prof. Andrea Harrington, Co-Director of the Institute of Air and Space Law, Associate Professor, McGill University
- Q&A session with participants***

***Vote of Thanks***

**DSG, AALCO**

**Key Topics**

The webinar aspires to cover the following key areas:

1. Exploring why emerging space actors should prioritise the development of comprehensive space laws that comply with UN space treaties and principles.

2. Identifying essential components that should be addressed in national space legislation, including licensing, liability, insurance, environmental protection, and adherence to international space law obligations.
3. UN Space Treaties and their significance in domestic space law-making: Outer Space Treaty (1967); Rescue Agreement (1968); Liability Convention (1972); and Registration Convention (1975)
4. Examining the evolution and effectiveness of the domestic legal-policy frameworks in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the United States and efforts to ensure compliance with international space law and promoting space activities.
5. Exploring how established space powers can support emerging actors in developing their legal frameworks and promoting awareness of and compliance with international space law through initiatives like UNOOSA's Space Law for New Space Actors project.
6. Discussing programmes and opportunities for developing space law expertise in Asia and Africa, including educational partnerships, training workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms.