



Facilitating the Process for the Development of an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities

The development of norms of behaviour for outer space activities is essential for the long-term sustainability, predictability and security of the outer space environment. At this juncture when space is becoming ever more crowded and more actors are seeking to benefit from access to space, it is essential that norms of behaviour and best practices are established and propagated.

With the support of the European Union, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is launching a project to work on facilitating the process for the development of an international code of conduct for outer space activities. This will aim to frame and contextualize the ongoing diplomatic process currently working towards producing a widely accepted and implemented international code of conduct for space activities.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

a) To consult with as many countries as possible, active or not yet active on space issues to discuss the proposal of a space code of conduct and gather their views; including through four regional seminars and two framing meetings in the context of the multilateral diplomatic meetings on the European proposal for an International Code

b) To engage expert support for the development of an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, and to coordinate a consortium of non-governmental experts.

The 18-month project is expected to frame and enhance the ongoing discussions of a space code of conduct, and will be targeted at all relevant stakeholders. To facilitate well-informed, substantive discussion, a series of background research papers will be commissioned to focus on states' uses of space. It is hoped that the project will result in increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of space sustainability and security among UN Member States along with wider and more substantive participation in multilateral discussions in the context of a code.

Summary reports from each regional seminar and framing meeting, outlining discussions, ideas and recommendations put forward, will be made available online.

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