



#### National Legislation & Regulation of Space Activities

#### **Presented to:**

The Forum "Space for Human and Environmental Security in the Americas:

Space policy, Long-term sustainability and Cyber- Health"

Room José Ma. Morelos, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Mexico D.F.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

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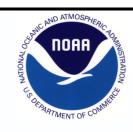
## Relevant U.N. Outer Space Treaty Provisions



- International responsibility (Art. VI)
- Obligation to authorize & supervise (Art. VI)
- Liability as a launching state (Art. VII)
- Registration (Art. VIII)



# Reasons for States to Enact National Space Legislation



- To fulfill international treaty obligations
- To achieve consistency and predictability in the conduct of space activities under the jurisdiction of the State
- To provide a practical regulatory system for private sector involvement
- To improve national coordination of space activities



#### **Different National Approaches**



- States adapt their national legal frameworks according to their specific needs and practical considerations
- Key elements to consider:
  - Scope of application
  - Authorization and licensing
  - Safety
  - Continuing supervision
  - Registration
- Unified acts vs. combination of national legal instruments



# **General Scope of National Regulatory Frameworks**



- Authorize a space activity
  - Launching of objects into outer space
  - Operation of a launch/re-entry site
  - Operation of a space object
- Implement national policy objectives
  - Promote responsible actors and sustainable practices (e.g. UNCOPUOS Debris Guidelines)
  - Promote specific space activities (e.g. civil earth observation, telehealth)
  - Promote scientific exploration and research



### U.S. Legislative & Regulatory Overview



- Party to the Outer Space Treaty, Registration Convention, Liability Convention, and Rescue & Return Agreement
- National authorizing legislation
  - Combination of acts
  - Authority to specific U.S. government departments/agencies to regulate particular space activities
- Regulations are promulgated
- Licenses are required
- Compliance monitoring



#### **NOAA** as a Responsible Regulator



- License and monitor U.S. private remote sensing space systems
  - National and Commercial Space Programs Act (NCSPA) (51 U.S.C. § 60121 et. seq.)
  - Licensing of Private Land Remote-Sensing
     Space Systems Regulations (15 CFR Part 960)
- License conditions include:
  - Compliance with international obligations
  - Spacecraft disposal and orbital debris mitigation plan

#### **Summary**

- States are obligated to supervise and authorize space activities
- National legislation and regulation can facilitate supervision and authorization of private and government space activities
- National legislation and regulation provides additional benefits, including increased predictability, consistency, transparency, and improved coordination
- Legislation and regulation should comply with international obligations and ensure activities are undertaken responsibly.





# Thank You Muchas Gracias

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