

**AN ABSTRACT ON THE OVERVIEW OF NIGERIA
SPACE ACTIVITIES AND SPACE LAW**

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Examination of what constitutes Space law vis-à-vis Space activities in Nigeria including those of private entities within the territory of Nigeria and /or subject to her jurisdiction.

This paper will attempt to examine the relationship between what is considered Space law and Nigeria national laws in relation to Space activities.

The issue to be addressed therefore is whether the relevant laws in force in Nigeria vis-à-vis her international obligations address or balance various interests in Outer Space and Outer Space activities. This paper will examine the salient provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, then elements of law which constitute the content of Space law. The principles and steps taken by Nigeria to comply with her international obligations are examined alongside a consideration of her domestic laws in force.

OVERVIEW OF NIGERIA SPACE ACTIVITIES AND SPACE LAW

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I Sources of “Space Law”

Space law has been referred¹ to as a term of functional classification. In other words space law is that part of the existing legal systems on earth which relates to outer space or to activities in or involving outer space. The term functionalism, in the context of space law and its application, is believed to mean that once a space activity is lawful, it may be conducted as such under *lex spacialis* on special rules, regardless of where the activity takes place.² In contrast to the functionalist view, there also exists a spatialist theory which appears to favour the application of a presumed autonomous system of laws whereby the scope of space law for legal purposes can be divided into different areas of human activity for each of which a *lex loci spacialis* could be made applicable.³ That said, bearing in mind the widely acknowledged fact that the legal system which has been most directly concerned is public international law⁴, there is a consensus to the effect that alongside international space law, there are various systems of domestic space law.

Specifically, the prime legislative document applicable to space activities, in the context of public international law, was the 1963 *Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space*, adopted in the form of a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.⁵ That Declaration was transformed into the legally binding 1967 *Treaty on*

¹ Bin Cheng, *Studies in International Space Law*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1994 Reprint at page 1xi. See also Peter Malanczuk, *Actors: states, international organizations, private entities*, in *Outlook on Space Law over the Next 30 years*, Gabriel Lafferandierie & Daphne Crowther (eds) Kluwer Law International, 1997 at page 29.

² Chia-Jui Cheng, *New Sources of International Space Law in The Use of Air and outer Space Cooperation and Competition*, op. cit., note 13 at page 213 citing, Henri Wassenbergh, *Principles of Space Law in Hindsight*, op. cit., note 9 at page 18.

³ Id. citing, Henri Wassenbergh, *Principles of Space Law in Hindsight*, op. cit., note 9 at page 18 and E. Galloway, *Should the UN Draft a Treaty on Earth Resources Satellite? A Pro and Con Analysis*, 3 J. SPACE L. (1979) at pages 78-79.

⁴ See Carl Q. Christol, *The International Law of Outer Space*, NAVPAPERS 15031, Volume LV, 1962, at page 125 – 126; Marko Markov, *General Principles of International Law in Outer Space* (1962) 5 PROC. COLL. L. OUTER SPACE at page 6; Yuri Kolosov, *Interrelation Between Rules and Principles of International Outer Space Law and General Rules and Principles of International Law*, (1973) 16 PROC. COLL. L. OUTER SPACE at page 45-48; Manfred Lachs, “Foreward” in Nandasiri Jasentuliyana and R.S.K. Lee, *Manual on Space Law*, Vol. I, Oceana Publications, 1979 at page xii; Bin Cheng, *Studies in International Space Law*, op. cit., note 14 at pages 1xi and 150; Gennady Zhukov and Yuri Kolosov, *International Space Law*, Praeger Publishers 1984, at page 10; Manfred Lachs, *Outer Space, The Moon and Other Celestial Bodies*, in M. Bedjaoui (ed.) *International Law: Achievements and Prospects*, at page 968; Maurice Andem, *International Legal Problems in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space*, University of Lapland Publications in Law, Series B20, Rovaniemi, 1992 at page 39; Stephan Hobe, *The Legal Framework for Commercial Space Activities*, Berlin 1992 at page 21 et. seq; Frans von Der Dunk, *Public Enterprise and Public Interest in the European Spacecraft*, International Institute of Air and Space Law, Leiden University, ISBN 90-9011984, 1998, at page 9; I.H. Ph. Diederiks-Verschoor, *An Introduction to Space Law*, 2nd Revised Edition, Kluwer Law International, 1999; at pages 3-4; Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, *International Space Law and the United Nations*, op. cit., note 10 at pages 18 – 21; Peter Hannappel, *The Law and Policy of Airspace and OuterSpace – A Comparative Approach*, Kluwer Law International, 2003 at page 9.

⁵ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1962 (XVIII), of 13 December 1963; UN Doc. A/AC.105/572/Rev.1, at 37. On the question of whether or not the principles contained in this 1963 Declaration can now be considered as forming customary international law, see: Carl Q. Christol, *The International Law of Outer Space*. loc. cit. ; Jenks, C.W., *Space Law* (London 1965) at page 185; Vladimir Kopal, in response to Stephan Hobe, *Current and Future Development of International Space Law*, Proceedings of the United Nations/Brazil Workshop on Capacity Building in Space Law 22-25 November 2004, Brazil, at page 18; Morton S. Jaffe, *Reliance upon International Custom and General Principles in the Growth of Space Law*, 5 (1962) PROC. COLL. L. OUTER

Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1967 Outer Space Treaty hereinafter). It must be noted though, that prior to the entry into force of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, the 1963 *Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water*⁶, had already been concluded. In the following years, an additional four treaties intended to regulate human activities in outer space were developed by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS). These treaties include: The 1968 *Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space*⁷, the 1972 *Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects*⁸, the 1976 *Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space*⁹, and the 1979 *Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies*.¹⁰ Another space related treaty is the 1977 *Geneva Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile use of Environmental Modification Techniques*¹¹ that defines environmental modification techniques as changing -- through the deliberate manipulation of natural processes -- the dynamics, composition or structure of the earth, including its biota, lithosphere, hydro-sphere, and atmosphere, or of outer space. The United Nations General Assembly has also adopted Resolutions¹² relating to outer space. These Resolutions which themselves establish a number of principles are comprised of the 1982 *Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting*¹³, the 1986 *Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space*¹⁴, the 1992 *Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space*¹⁵, and the 1996 *Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries*.¹⁶ In most recent times, and consequent upon a growing concern over the spread of ballistic missiles, the 2002 *Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation*¹⁷ was adopted by over 90 States at the conference convened to adopt the said Protocol. The Code which calls upon States to ratify, accede to or otherwise abide by the United Nations Treaties referred to hereinbefore, seeks to curb the proliferation of ballistic missiles and other weapons of mass destruction, which may include space launch vehicle programmes. In addition, the United Nations

SPACE, pages 1-27; Vladen Vereshchetin and Gennady Danilenko, *Custom as a Source of International Law of Outer Space*, 13 J. SPACE L. (1985) at pages 22 - 35.

⁶ UNTS Vol. 480 (1963), p. 45 et seq.

⁷ 672 UNTS 119; 19 UST 7570; TIAS 6599.

⁸ 961 UNTS 187; 10 ILM 965 (1971); 24 UST 2389; TIAS 7762.

⁹ 1023 UNTS 15; 14 ILM (1975); 28 UST 695; TIAS 8480.

¹⁰ 1363 UNTS 3; 18 ILM 1434 (1979).

¹¹ 16 ILM (1977) p. 88. This Convention defines environmental modification techniques as changing -- through the deliberate manipulation of natural processes -- the dynamics, composition or structure of the earth, including its biota, lithosphere, hydro-sphere, and atmosphere, or of outer space.

¹² On the nature of the United Nations Resolutions, see: Bin Cheng, *Studies in International Space Law*, op. cit., note 14 at pages 125 to 149.

¹³ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 37/92 of 10 December 1982; UN Doc. A/AC.105/572/Rev. 1 at 39.

¹⁴ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986; UN Doc. A/AC.105/572/Rev.1 at 43.

¹⁵ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992; UN Doc. A/AC.105/572/Rev. 1 at 47.

¹⁶ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 51/122 of December 1996; UN Doc. A/RES/51/122 (1997). Note that the initial deliberations of the UNCOPUOS leading up to the adoption of this Declaration were based upon a Working Paper (UN Doc. A/AC.105/C.2/L.182/Rev.2 of March 23, 1995) jointly co-sponsored by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Uruguay and Venezuela. See: Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, *International Space Law and the United Nations*, op.cit. note 10 at page 47.

¹⁷ See Christer Ahlstrom, *Non-Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles: The 2002 Code of Conduct*, Yearbook of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 2003. See also United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/62 of 8 December 2005.

recently adopted the Resolution on *Application of the Concept of the Launching State*¹⁸ intended to *inter alia* improve the stability and reliability of the current framework for space flight and transportation.¹⁹

Space law however, as it has been noted:

....”does not consist solely of United Nations made law. It is complemented by the huge volume of space law resulting from thousands of bilateral treaties entered into by space faring nations. The activities of other bodies also contribute substantially to the body of space law. These include the specialized agencies of the UN System and inter-governmental organizations established for specific space applications needs of the international community. They also include international non-governmental organizations and national organizations”.²⁰

It would be correct therefore to argue²¹ that, with the particularity of the nature, characteristics and scope of international space law, different approaches should be adopted when deducing and analyzing its sources²² based upon either notional, doctrinal, material, evidential or sanctionable approaches. In spite of the different available approaches which one may adopt in ascertaining the rules of space law, suffice it to state for the purposes of this article, that in dealing with the general subject of sources of the present space law, this author aligns with the assertion, that:

...”the regulation of space activities consists of, and is growing in, two layers of legal norms: The first layer represented by the international law of outer space that governs the space activities of international persons, i.e. States and international intergovernmental organizations, which also create this law through a growing number of bilateral and multilateral treaties of different kinds, mostly dealing with international cooperation and individual projects thereof, which have been concluded between two or more States and international organizations. The second layer of the legal regulation of space activities has been developing particularly during the recent period by means of national laws adopted by individual spacefaring States. These laws govern the activities of States and their space agencies, implement the principles of international space law at the level of domestic legal orders, and also regulate the activities of their nationals, both physical and juridical persons.”²³

From the foregoing, it is apparent that there exists a branch of space law referred to as international space law, providing guiding principles for States in the conduct of space activities

¹⁸ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 59/115 of 10 December 2004.

¹⁹ Marietta Benkoe, and Kai-Uwe Schrogl, *The UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Adoption of a Resolution on Application of the Concept of the “Launching State” and Other Recent Developments*, ZLW 54, Volume 1/2005 at pages 57 to 63.

²⁰ Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, *International Space Law and the United Nations*, op. cit., note 10 at page 5.

²¹ Chia-Jui Cheng, *New Sources of International Space Law in The Use of Air and outer Space Cooperation and Competition*, op. cit., note 13 at pages 207 – 208.

²² On the use of the term “sources of law” see: Ian Brownlie, *Principles of Public International Law*, OUP, 5th Edition, 1998, at pages 3-4; Hugh Thirlway, *The Sources of International Law*, in *International Law* (Malcom Evans, ed.) OUP, 2003 at pages 117 – 120.

²³ Vladimir Kopal, *Existing United Nations Treaties: Strengths and Needs*, Proceedings of the Workshop on Space Law in the Twenty-First Century, UNISPACE III Technical Forum, 1999, at page 11; Vladimir Kopal, *Introduction to the United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space*, Proceedings of the United Nations / International Institute of Air and Space Law Workshop on Capacity Building in Space Law, the Hague, 2003, at pages 10 – 11.

alongside “other legal sources” which collectively constitute space law.²⁴ There is therefore a theoretical interdependence between international space law and other areas of public and private law as space law is assumed to constitute merely a functional classification of those rules of international law and of municipal law relating to outer space, natural and man-made objects in outer space, astronauts and man’s activities in outer space or affecting outer space.²⁵

II Custom, Treaty Obligations and Domestic Statutes

Formation of Custom?

When do treaties become custom?

Analysis of current international space law set forth in the treaties mentioned hereinbefore, reveals the existence of principles not only recognizing outer space including the Moon and other celestial bodies as *res communis*²⁶, but also addressing the freedom of exploration²⁷ and of non-appropriation²⁸, the over-arching imperative to comply with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations²⁹, the necessity of utilising space for peaceful purposes³⁰, the obligation to assist and rescue astronauts³¹, the international responsibility³² and/or liability of States for all national space activities, the obligation to register space objects³³, the demilitarization³⁴ of space, and the legal status of the Moon declared to be the common heritage of mankind³⁵. Further analysis of the four additional United Nations Resolutions also reveals the existence of principles designed to address and possibly regulate special categories of space activities, including, the use by States of artificial satellites for International direct broadcasting, remote sensing of the earth from outer space, use of nuclear power sources in outer space and international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space.

The question as to whether or not the principles set forth in the said United Nations Resolutions can be considered as having some form of legal force is undoubted³⁶, albeit the possibility that the

²⁴ See Peter Hannappel, *The Law and Policy of Airspace and OuterSpace – A Comparative Approach*, op. cit. note 17 at pages xiii to xvi for a discussion on the autonomy of air and space law, citing P.P.C. Haanappel, *The Autonomy of Air and Space Law, Visited and Revisited, The Difference Between Theory and Practice*, State University of Leiden Publications, 1997.

²⁵ Bin Cheng, *Studies in International Space Law*, op. cit., note 14 at page 429.

²⁶ Art. I of the Outer Space Treaty.

²⁷ Id.

²⁸ Art. II of the Outer Space Treaty.

²⁹ Art. III of the Outer Space Treaty.

³⁰ Id.

³¹ Art. V of the Outer Space Treaty. This Article was further elaborated upon and transformed into the *Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space*.

³² Art. VI and VII of the Outer Space Treaty. Article VII of the Outer Space Treaty was further elaborated upon and transformed into the *Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects*. On the nature of State Responsibility, see Clyde Eagleton, *The Responsibility of States in International Law*, The New York University Press, 1928, Kraus Reprint Co. 1970, at page 3, note 2. With respect to terminology comparing “State Responsibility” with “International Liability”, see Karl Zemanek, *Causes and Forms of International liability*, in *Contemporary Problems of International Law: Essays in Honour of Georg Schwarzenberger on his eightieth birthday* (Ed. Bin Cheng and E.D. Brown) London, Stevens & Sons Limited, 1988 at page 319, 327 ; TA Berwick, *Responsibility and Liability for Environmental Damage: A Roadmap for International Environmental Regimes*, (1998) 10 Georgetown International Environmental Law Review 257, at 259; Boyle, A.E., *State Responsibility and Liability for Injurious Consequences of acts not Prohibited by International Law: A Necessary Distinction?* (1990) 39 ICLQ at page 1; Ian Brownlie, *System of the Law of Nations – State Responsibility Part I*, Oxford at the Clarendon Press, 1983 at pages 1-8; James Crawford and Simon Olleson, *The Nature and Forms of International Responsibility*, in *International Law* (ed. Malcolm Evans, Oxford University Press, at page 445; James Crawford, *The International Law Commission’s Articles on State Responsibility – Introduction, Text and Commentaries*, Cambridge University Press, 2002 at page 77.

³³ Art. VIII of the Outer Space Treaty. This Article was further elaborated upon and transformed into the *Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space*.

³⁴ Art. IV of the Outer Space Treaty.

³⁵ Article 11 of the Moon Agreement. See also Aldo Armando Cocca, *The Principle of the “Common Heritage of all Mankind” as Applied to Natural Resources from Outer Space and Celestial Bodies*, 26 (1973) PROC. COLL. L. OUTER SPACE, 172-176.

³⁶ On the legality and bindingness of United Nations Resolutions, see: *Oppenheims International Law*, op. cit. at pages 45-50.

United Nations Resolutions on Outer Space may be considered as customary rules of international law, for long the subject of debate,³⁷ now seems to be settling.³⁸

The influence of developing countries including the States of Africa in the elaboration and the legal principles contained within treaties and resolutions and outer space is evident with respect to demilitarization; the liability provisions of the 1967 Outer space treaty and the 1972 Liability Convention, as well as the "Common Heritage of Mankind Principle" set forth in the 1979 Moon Agreement. It is also on record that in areas such as direct satellite broadcasting, remote sensing, international co-operation in outer space and satellite communications, the developing countries including the African States created the greatest impact in the law-making process for outer space.³⁹ These include the primacy of sovereignty in the receipt of direct broadcast satellite signals; the prior consent and control by sensed States over the distribution of data retrieved over their territories; utilization of the geostationary orbit and regulation of satellite communications and; the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

On the subject of multi-lateral international space law agreements, in addition to the *Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies* as well as the *Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space*, Nigeria, recently became a Party to the *Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects*. Steps have been taken to accede to the *Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space*⁴⁰. Furthermore, though Nigeria is not Party to either the *Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies* or the *Geneva Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile use of Environmental Modification Techniques*, Nigeria was one of the founding Signatories to the *Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation*. In the light of the foregoing assessment of what constitutes space law vis-à-vis the space activities of Nigeria, including those of private entities within the territory of Nigeria and/or subject to her jurisdiction.

On the other hand, a number of Nigerian domestic statutes, applicable to *inter alia*, insurance, communications, intellectual property/database protection and export controls, can be said to apply to space related activities, especially those entered into by private entities. In particular, the provisions of the Nigerian *Insurance Act* of 2003 are to the effect that part of the re-insurance pertaining to assets such as satellites, underwritten by foreign insurance companies, must be placed with Nigerian underwriters. The Nigerian Communications Commission which administers

³⁷ Bin Cheng, *United Nations Resolutions on Outer Space: Instant International Customary Law?* (1965) 5 Indian J Int. Law 23; Bin Cheng, *Studies in International Space Law* op. cit. at pages 125-149.

³⁸ It is stated that the character of customary international law can now be assigned without doubts only to principles included in the 1963 Declaration of Legal Principles. See Vladimir Kopal, in response to Stephan Hobe, *Current and Future Development of International Space Law*, Proceedings of the United Nations/Brazil Workshop on Capacity Building in Space Law 22-25 November 2004, Brazil, at page 18. For a more liberal position on the subject, see Ricky J. Lee and Steven Freeland, *The Crystallisation of General Assembly Space Declarations into Customary International Law*, 46 (2003) PROC. COLL. L. OUTER SPACE.

³⁹ Nandasiri Jasentuliyana, *The Development of the Outer Space Treaties and Legal Principles from a Third World Perspective*, op. cit. at page 59. See also: Sylvia Ospina, *The Third World Countries' Challenges and Contributions to Space Law*, 30 (1988) PROC. COLL. L. OUTER SPACE, at pages 135 - 141.

⁴⁰ Note however that in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, the Nigerian government voluntarily provided on Nigeriasat-1 in August 2004. It can be therefore expected that when the *Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space*, enters into force for Nigeria, the voluntary information provided with respect to Nigeriasat-1 shall be resubmitted to the United Nations in accordance with the Registration Convention

the provisions of the *Communications Act* of 2003, has the sole and exclusive power to manage and administer the radio frequency spectrum for the communications sector and in that regard to grant licences for and regulate the use of the said radio frequency spectrum⁴¹. It is a fact that satellite communications rely upon the use of radio frequency spectrum for signal transmissions. On the protection of remotely sensed data, one must take into account, the *Copyright Act*, Cap 68 Laws of the Federation, 1990, and the 2003 *National Geoinformation Policy* both of which contain provisions and policy statements respectively, intended to protect intellectual property, arising from remotely sensed data. Furthermore, there is currently in force a *Fire Arms Act*, Cap146 which regulates amongst other items, the use, import and export of artillery and rocket weapons (which would encompass space launch vehicles).

III Concluding Remarks

Earlier on, the question was posed as to whether the relevant laws in force in Nigeria vis-à-vis her international obligations adequately balance various interests in outer space and outer space activities. In providing a response one can state that though the current framework is not entirely appropriate, there are legal prescriptions under which space activities can reasonably be operated. The gaps and or perceived problems in the legal framework stem primarily from the involvement of private entities, which as it has been contended, is because, pursuant to Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty:

... "The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty."

One expert is of the view that the best way for States to exercise legal control over the activities of private entities would be through the establishment of a licensing system as part of a national space law, providing for the necessary controls and safeguards.⁴² This is stated alongside the fact that it should be left to the international level to define the parameters and scope within which such control of private space activities should take place.⁴³ We will therefore recall an earlier citation, that..."there is a reciprocal penetration of international space law and domestic space law into areas which may be the appropriate spheres of their primary regulation. This is not a spontaneous process, rather a deliberate one, necessitated by the complexity of interrelationships of national and international space activities."⁴⁴ In the above circumstances, it can be predicted that the coming years will witness in Nigeria, the promulgation of appropriate domestic legislation, without prejudice to the fact that current absence of specific national normative acts to accompany the signing, ratification and/ or accession to international space law treaties, in no way undermines the bindingness of the said treaties on the State, its Ministries / Para-Statals and other entities, subject

⁴¹ It is interesting to note here that though the private entity established by the Nigerian Government to operate the Nigcomsat-1 communications satellite is subject to the provisions of the Nigerian Communications Act of 2003 as far as the use of radio frequency spectrum is concerned, its day to day operations would ordinarily be governed by those guidelines put in place for the operations of state owned companies under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, as stated in the Nigerian Federal Civil Service Circular - Reference No. SGF/OP/1S.3/T.1/142 of 2nd August 1999.

⁴² See Frans G. Von der Dunk, *Public Space and Private Enterprise – The Fitness of International Space Law Instruments for Private Space Activities*, op. cit., note 9 at page 37, for a thorough analysis of the issues arising on public space law and private enterprise.

⁴³ Id.

⁴⁴ Note 46 supra.

to its jurisdiction, involved in space activities. Furthermore and whilst attempts must no doubt be made to strengthen the domestic legal frameworks it is pertinent to note that, at the 49th Session of the UNCOPUOS, convened in Vienna, from 7th to 16th June 2006, the delegate of Nigeria stated that as follows:

“...in as much as my delegation is in support of the idea of a universal, comprehensive convention on space law, we recognize that in order to strengthen the legal framework for global space activities, member states should commit themselves to the ratification and the scrupulous implementation of the existing legal instruments.....although the United Nations Treaties and Resolutions on international space law provide a minimum framework for the conduct of space activities, my delegation is convinced that advances in technology necessitate the need to expand our understanding of the scope, content and application of space law rules.”