

AGENDA ITEM 5

**INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take the opportunity of this agenda item on the activities of international organizations to reiterate the main point my predecessor made last year. My government called for members of international organizations to consider steps they could take to encourage wider adherence to the Outer Space Treaty and to the Liability and Registration Conventions so as to make it possible for the organizations to accept the principles of the Conventions.

International organizations that carry on space activities have the opportunity to accept the principles of the Liability and Registration Conventions. The core articles of the Liability and Registration Conventions can be deemed to apply to an international intergovernmental organization which conducts space activities. Two requirements must be met, however. (Liability Convention, Article XXII(1); Registration Convention, Article VII(1).) The organization must declare its acceptance of rights and obligations under the Convention *and* the majority of the

members of the organization must have adhered to both the Outer Space Treaty and to either the Liability or Registration Convention, as the case may be.

As a result of the latter condition, several extremely important intergovernmental organizations conducting space activities remain unable to elect to bring those activities into the frameworks of the Liability and Registration Conventions because not enough of their members have adhered to both the Outer Space Treaty and either the Liability or Registration Convention. The result is a potentially significant gap in the coverage of key treaties.

We again encourage any organizations that may be in this position, and their members, to consider taking steps to remedy this problem. We believe that doing so could produce a useful improvement in the coverage and effectiveness of two of the most important space law treaties. We would welcome clarification as to what steps these organizations are already taking to address this problem.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.