

**Group of Governmental
Experts (GGE) -
The Study on Outer
Space Transparency
and
Confidence Building
Measures (TCBMs)**

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Mandate

- GA Resolution 65/68, urges the Secretary-General to establish a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE), on the basis of equitable geographical representation, with the purpose of conducting a study on outer space transparency and confidence building measures (TCBMs), making use of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General on the subject.

The Content of the GGE Report

- Chapter II provides a background overview.
- Chapter III - the general characteristics and basic principles of outer space TCBMs.
- Chapters IV - VIII reflect the specific measures recommended by the GGE on TCBMs in outer space activities.
- Final Chapter IX - provides general conclusions and recommendations for implementation of the measures presented in Chapters IV – VIII.

Methodology

- 16 member GGE, representing 5 regions including P5, had Consultations and received inputs from Member States, international organisations and civil society.
- Experts reviewed the GGE report on the study on application of confidence-building measures to outer space (A/48/305), the Secretary General's report that contained concrete proposals from member States pursuant to 61/75,62/43,/63/68 and 64/49 and existing international Legal Instruments on Outer Space were utilised for the purpose of study.
- Consulted Intergovernmental Organisations, and held Outreach activities with First Committee, COPUS, CD.
- Received representation from Experts and entities upon requests on case by case basis.

Changing Space Environment and the Need for Norms Settings

- The outer space environment, and the immense resources it provides, is a critical component of human endeavour in the twenty first century.
- Outer space activities play a significant role in social, economic, scientific and technological development, as well as in the field of international peace and security.
- Space activities by States, and other entities has exponentially Increased.
- Space environment is becoming increasingly congested, contested and competitive and face threats to vital space capabilities may increase during the next decade both from natural and manmade hazards.
- The political climate regarding outer space sustainability and security has fundamentally changed since the last GGE study was conducted.
- In the interest of maintaining international peace and security, it is clear that it is in the shared interest of all nations to act responsibly, and in accordance with international law, when carrying out outer space activities in order to help to prevent mishaps, misperceptions and miscalculations.

International Legal Framework on Outer Space

- The Treaty on Principles Governing Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, The Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1967).
- The Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (1968).
- The Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (1972).
- The Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (1975).
- The Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union and its Radio Regulations as amended.
- The Convention of the World Meteorological Organization as amended.
- The Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere in Outer Space and under Water (1963).
- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (1996).

General Characteristics and Basic Principles of Outer Space TCBMs

- a. The nature and purpose of outer space transparency and confidence-building measures
- b. Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

The Specific Measures Recommended by the GGE

- IV. Enhancing the transparency of outer space activities
- V. International cooperation
- VI. Consultative mechanisms
- VII. Outreach
- VIII. Coordination

TCBMs for Outer Space Activities

- TCBMs aim at the availability of information on the space policy of States involved in outer space activities.
- Exchange of Information about development programmes for new space systems, as well as information about operational space-based systems.
- The articulation of a State's principles and goals.
- Availability of information on objects in outer space and their general function particularly in Earth orbits.
- Related to establishing norms of behavior for promoting spaceflight safety.
- International cooperation measures aimed at promoting capacity building and disseminating data for sustainable economic and social development.

Criteria for TCBMs in Outer Space

- Developed and implemented unilaterally, bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally by States and intergovernmental organizations.
- Be implemented to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with their national interests and obligations.
- Be aimed at increasing the security, safety and sustainability of outer space.
- Voluntary and pragmatic measures to ensure the security and stability of outer space activities in all their aspects.
- Demonstration of the practicability of a particular measure or set of actions to the various actors involved, within the scope of the proposed measure or actions.
- UN treaties on outer space contain several TCBMs of a mandatory nature.
- Non-legally binding TCBMs should complement the existing international legal framework, not undermine existing legal obligations or hamper the legal use of outer space, particularly by emerging space actors.
- Complement, but not substitute for, the verification measures in arms control agreements and regimes.

Enhancing the Transparency of Outer Space Activities

- Information exchange on space policies
- Exchanges of information on major military outer space expenditures and other national security space activities
- Information exchange and notification related to outer space activities
- Risk reduction notifications
- Contact, visits to space launch sites and facilities

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- IV. Enhancing the transparency of outer space activities
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- V1. Consultative mechanisms
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Conclusion