

Role of the National Legislation in Governing the Activities in Outer Space

*Marianna Ilyashevich**

Abstract

States' activity in outer space is a highly science-driven and technologically complex area. This fact determines necessity of close cooperation between states on different levels with the view of outer space exploration in the interest of humanity. The international legal governance of certain aspects of outer space activity, however, is still underdeveloped, i.a., due to the ponderosity of the treaty process and reluctance of states to engage in constructive dialogue. That said, "soft law" in the form of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions and the national legislation of states become more prominent in the area of outer space activities. Role of the national legislation in this area is hard to overestimate. Major part of the crucial aspects of the outer space activity have found their place solely in the national legislation, filling the existing lacunas and influencing formation of international space law.

1. Introduction

Activities in outer space take a prominent place in every state's development. As technology advances, even more possibilities open for states and other actors to conduct various researches, obtain new knowledge and develop means and methods for outer space exploration. The latter is no longer a dream for mankind, but a reality, and equally, a source and a goal for development of new technologies, including artificial intelligence and machine learning. It is thus fair to presume that those, for clarity, "controlling" outer space, will have better capabilities to prosper and develop in future.

Already in the second half of the XX century, at the early stage of development of outer space, endless possibilities of its utilization, along with celestial bodies, were evident. This was the time when first international treaties were concluded, which now form the basis of contemporary

* Department of International Law, RUDN University, Moscow, Russia.

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international law of outer space, reflecting the regime of outer space and celestial bodies. First to be noted is the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. One of its key provisions, reflecting the states' common will, is that "The exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind".¹ Noteworthy is that this provision is of customary character² making it compulsory for every state despite their participation in that treaty. All other treaties, "soft law" and national legislation governing relations in outer space must be assessed in its light.

Outer space activities are diversifying and becoming more complex day by day and the legal regulation must follow. Along with that, the latest universal treaty on the matter was adopted in the end of the 1970s – Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies 1979. All other documents developed under the United Nations are of advisory nature and, despite the strong role "soft law" plays in matters of outer space activities,³ they cannot suffice that goal.

There are two things to be mentioned in that view: firstly, not all aspects of outer space activities can be regulated on the international level – it is where national legislation comes into play; secondly, the latter can serve as a basis for development and adoption of new international documents, including, most importantly, those of binding character. Although it is still necessary to ensure that national legislation does not contravene and diminish adherence to international obligations under the five outer space treaties. It must also be "progressive" enough to effectively resolve issues having a direct bearing on the use of outer space, though not in a single-state-centered fashion, but accounting for interests of all states. This way national regulation will be able to contribute to development of mutually beneficial relations between states, reaching sustainable development of the outer space activities for benefit of

1 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. Adopted by the General Assembly Resolution 2222 (XXI), 19 December 1966. Art. 1. <https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/outerspacetreaty.html>, (accessed 12 December 2021).

2 F.G. von der Dunk, Customary International Law and Outer Space, in: B.D. Lepard (Ed.), *Reexamining Customary International Law*, Cambridge University Press, 2017. Pp. 346–374.

3 D. Gugunskiy, The role of non-binding norms in international space law, Proceedings of the First IAA/AAS SciTech Forum on Space Flight Mechanics and Space Structures and Materials, 13–15 November 2018. - P. 957

all mankind.⁴ Along with that, national legislation also reveals *opinio juris* of states and is, therefore, useful for establishment of a new rule of customary international law. A special focus here should be aimed at so-called “Spacefaring Nations” as specially affected states, including the Russian Federation.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. International framework for domestic legal regulations of states’ outer space activities

National legislation plays a major role in regulation of states’ activities in outer space. Here it is ought to recall the amount of attention that the United Nations General Assembly and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) devote to the issue of effective governance of national activities and the question of information exchange on matters of national legislation related to exploration and utilization of outer space for pacific purposes. As was mentioned in the latest Report on its activity of 2019, the COPUOS makes it possible for states to obtain knowledge on existing domestic regulations, exchange best practices, results of which proved to be extremely useful to the end of creating and/or developing systems of domestic regulations.⁵ Developing efforts in outer space, states aim at: improvement of the management and regulation of outer space activities; reorganization of national space agencies; increase in competitiveness of governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in their outer space activities; greater involvement of academia in policy formulation; better implementation of international obligations;⁶ a more active opposition towards challenges posed by the development of cosmonautics, in particular, a more rational approach to utilization of outer space, contamination by space debris, utilization of nuclear power plants, etc. For national legislation to become comprehensive in this area, not only international treaties on outer

4 Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Annex II. Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Sixty-second session (12–21 June 2019). UN Doc A/74/20. P. 50 - 69. https://www.unoosa.org/res/oosadoc/data/documents/2019/a/a7420_0_html/V1906077.pdf, (accessed 18 December 2021).

5 National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Sixty-second session (12–21 June 2019). UN Doc A/74/20. P. 28, https://www.unoosa.org/res/oosadoc/data/documents/2019/a/a7420_0_html/V1906077.pdf, (accessed 13 December 2021).

6 National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Draft Report: Addendum. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Legal Subcommittee, Fifty-sixth session, 27 March-7 April 2017. Para. 5. https://www.unoosa.org/res/oosadoc/data/documents/2017/aac_105c_21/aac_105c_21_301add_4_0_html/AC105_C2_L301Add04E.pdf, (accessed 13 December 2021).

space are to be taken into account, but also the United Nations Charter, Convention and the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union along with a number of acts of “soft law”, including, in particular, Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines 2007 and others.

On 16 December 2013 the United Nations Resolution “Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space” was adopted, drawing states’ attention – in matters of domestic governance – to the following aspects:⁷ launching objects in outer space and their returning to Earth; engineering and production of space objects; establishment of national jurisdiction over matters of outer space activities, originating from their territories; exercising control over space activities by their citizens and/or organizations; creating a framework for provision of licenses by a competent authority for exercise of outer space activities; ensuring that outer space activities are being conducted in a harmless manner and do not create obstacles to other space activities; keeping a log of objects launched in outer space; creating a procedure for subrogation claims towards operators or owners of space objects in cases of their liability for damages (including insurance claims), and others.

Certain recommendations are also represented in the Report of the Outer Space Law Committee of the International Law Association, which contains the Sofia Guidelines for a Model Law on National Space Legislation (2012)⁸ as well as in the Report of the Working Group on National Legislation of 2012.⁹

2.2. Legal framework for regulation of outer space activities in the Russian Federation

It is noteworthy that during the Soviet times the legislation on outer space was absent – relevant regulations were adopted by the executive authorities – Committee of Ministers, its Presidium, etc., which speaks of the absence of a unified legal framework. First of the laws in the area were adopted after the collapse of the USSR. Therefore, given that the legislation of the Russian Federation on outer space is relatively young, it still is in its growing period

7 Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2013. UN Doc A/RES/68/74. https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/A_RES_68_074E.pdf, (accessed 13 December 2021).

8 Draft model law on national space legislation and explanatory notes. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Legal Subcommittee. Fifty-second session, 8-19 April 2013. UN Doc A/AC.105/C.2/2013/CRP.6. https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/limited/c2/AC105_C2_2013_CRP06E.pdf, (accessed 13 December 2021).

9 Report of the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Legal Subcommittee. 3 April 2012. UN Doc A/AC.105/C.2/101. https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/reports/ac105/C2/AC105_C2_101E.pdf, (accessed 15 December 2021).

with a lot of its aspects being in need of proper regulation. This creates an impulse for a rapid development in the area and prepares ground for foreign experiences and “best practices” to be applied. At the same time, the process of improvement of national legislation on outer space has long begun. In particular, already in 1995, within the parliamentary hearings “On the use of outer space and outer space industry in Russia’s geopolitical interests”, held with participation of all interested persons, considerable attention was granted to the issue of development and adoption of federal laws creating a system governing legal relations in the area of outer space activities, along with the question of the rocket-space sector’s governance mechanism development and its structural reconstruction.¹⁰

Key position in outer space activities’ regulation in the Russian Federation is currently occupied by the Federal Law of 20 August 1993 “On the Outer Space Activities”, which is being regularly amended. Along with that, the Federal Law “On Provision of State and Municipal services” of 2010 covers issues of provision – within its competence – of state services by “Roscosmos”, a State-owned corporation, occupied in outer space activities; Federal Law “On the State-Owned Corporation “Roscosmos” Occupied in Outer Space Activities” of 2015; Federal Law of 23 August 1996 “On Science and State Scientific-Technical Policy”; Federal Law of 28 August 2014 “On Strategic Planning in the Russian Federation”; Federal Law of 31 July 2020 No. 248-FZ “On State Control (Oversight) and Municipal Control in the Russian Federation”.

Certain acts also operate on the executive’s level, such as, in particular, “The Scientific-Technological Development Strategy of the Russian Federation”; “Basics of the State Policy in the Area of Utilization of Results of Outer Space Activities for the Benefit of the Economy of the Russian Federation and its Regions’ Development for the Period Until 2030”; “Scientific-Technological Development Prognosis of the Russian Federation for the Period until 2030”; “Federal Outer Space Programme of the Russian Federation for the 2016-2025 Period” and others.

In this connection experts claim it is necessary to develop a separate code on the outer space activities that would comprehensively reflect the specifics of legal relations in question. Adoption of such document, like the Land and Airspace Codes would be a natural result of a coherent and balanced approach to developments of the Russian domestic legislation in the outer space area. This question is being also actively discussed within the academia. Crucial is that in matters of governing the outer space activities the Russian Federation proceed from supremacy of the international law, while still paying great attention to the timely development of domestic legislative acts with the aim of protection of its national interests within the boundaries

10 S.P. Malkov, *Kosmicheskoye pravo Rossii: osnovnyye etapy formirovaniya i razvitiya: monografiya*. GUAP, SPb., 2008. P. 8.

established by the international law, which is reflected in the key provisions of the federal legislation.

2.3. General Provisions of the Outer Space Legislation of the Russian Federation

Article 2 of the Federal Law “On Outer Space Activities” contains a broad definition of “outer space activity”: any activity directly linked to research and use of outer space including the Moon and other celestial bodies. Put otherwise, the notion includes both, activities conducted directly in outer space and those related, but exercised beyond it. The said notion differs from the one anchored in Article 71 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, which speaks of mere “activities in outer space” and appears to be too narrow.¹¹

The said law also contains a number of directions included in the notion of “outer space activities” and which are therefore covered by the relevant laws in the area: scientific outer space researches; utilization of outer space technologies for telecommunication, as well as TV and radio; remote Earth probing from outer space, including terrestrial environmental monitoring and meteorology; utilization of satellite navigation and alignment systems; piloted outer space flights; utilization of outer space systems, materials and technologies for the interests of security of the Russian Federation; monitoring of objects and events in outer space; technology’s testing in outer space; production of materials and other products in outer space; other forms of activities conducted with the use of outer space technologies. Outer space activities also include creation (including development, production and testing), utilization (exploitation) of outer space technologies, materials and engineering, international partnership of the Russian Federation in the area of use of outer space, provision of services related to outer space activities, as well as utilization of the results of such activities.

In other words, this includes any activity directed at exploration and use of outer space and celestial bodies. As stated by prof. Kopylov M.N., outer space activity – is an activity involving exploration and practical use of outer space and celestial bodies, which is conducted with the utilization of space crafts.¹² Prof. Zhukov G.P. noted that such activity “must be linked with either launching of a space object, its exploitation, or its return to Earth”.¹³

The law “On Outer Space Activities”, being based on provisions of international law – contains goals and principles of outer space activities, which help to create a unified basis for their regulation. In particular, outer

11 Constitution of the Russian Federation. Adopted on December 12, 1993. Art. 71 (i). <http://www.constitution.ru/index.htm>, (accessed 10 December 2021).

12 M.N. Kopylov, *International space law*. Publishing house of UDN, Moscow, 1987. P. 16.

13 *International Space Law* 2nd ed. Textbook for undergraduate and graduate programs. Liters, Russia, 2021. P. 15.

space activities that contravene international treaties of the Russian Federation are prohibited under the law in question.

Same as the body of international law, Russian legislation does not disclose a notion of a “space object”. Convention on Registration of Objects Launched in Outer Space of 1975 merely states that a “space object” includes its components, and its delivery vehicle with its components (Article 1).¹⁴ Absence of a unified definition is an issue, which needs to be solved in the nearest future for it makes realization of liability for damages more complex, in particular in cases of collapses with spaces debris. Active development of objects that cannot be regarded as “outer space objects” by virtue of their characteristics also warrants for formulation of the said notion. Such objects are, for instance, the so-called “high-altitude pseudo-satellites, which operate at an altitude of 20 km and are capable of providing services formerly the reserve of satellites, such as remote sensing, navigation and telecommunication”.¹⁵ What concerns the Russian legislation, it is ought to mention that according to normative documents on standardization of rocket-space technics, which set notions and definitions in the area of outer space systems and facilities, and utilization of which is compulsory for development and exploitation of outer space technologies, as well as in all types of technical documentation, an “outer space object” was usually defined as “a body of artificial origin, located in outer space”.¹⁶ Such an approach can hardly be deemed optimal, since the issue of establishment of outer space boundaries is still not resolved and is pending before the Legal Subcommittee of Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (LSC).¹⁷ Later a new Russian National Standard 53802-2010 was adopted by the Order No. 127-st of 29 June 2010 of the Federal Agency for Technical

14 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, adopted by resolution 3235 (XXIX)1 of the General Assembly dated 12 November 1974. Art. 1. https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/ARES_29_3235E.pdf, (accessed 15 December 2021).

15 Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-eighth session, held in Vienna from 1 to 12 April 2019. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. UN Document A/AC.105/1203, 18 April 2019. Annex II P. 45, Para. 3. https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/oosadoc/data/documents/2019/aac.105/aac.1051203_0.html, (accessed 18 December 2021).

16 OST 134-1020-2008 “Space systems and complexes. Terms and definitions”, 1 January 2009. <http://92.243.65.76/techdocs/kgs/ost/891/info/38348/>, (accessed 14 December 2021).

17 Report of the Acting Chair of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixtieth session, from 31 May to 11 June 2021. UN Doc A/AC.105/1243, 24 June 2021. Pp. 41-42. https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/oosadoc/data/documents/2021/aac.105/aac.1051243_0.html, (accessed 14 December 2021).

Regulation and Metrology.¹⁸ The Standard avoids the notion of an “outer space object”, while setting notions of an “outer space craft” and an “outer space ship” and others. An outer space craft means a technical device designed to function in outer space, which is aimed at accomplishing tasks of an outer space complex or system. An outer space ship is a piloted outer space craft capable of manoeuvring in the atmosphere and outer space and return to a selected area and/or descend and land on a planet. That way a distinction is drawn between different technologies thus being in line with the modern state of development of the outer space advancements, while taking into account the so-called technologies of “twofold purpose”, which can be of great value for development of provisions of the law of international responsibility.

Article 30 of the law “On Outer Space Activities” contains provisions related to liability, according to which “liability for damage dealt by a Russian outer space object while conducting outer space activities on the territory of the Russian Federation or beyond it, excluding outer space, is incurred despite the delinquent’s fault”. Along with that, damage dealt to persons or their property by a Russian outer space object on its territory or beyond it, has to be compensated by an organization or citizen that have insured their liability for damages. That way, Russian legislation on liability fully corresponds with provisions of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects of 1972, including the drawbacks warranted by the absence of definitions of an “outer space object” and “outer space” made with the goal of realization of this document’s provisions.

2.4. Peculiarities of the national regulation of outer space activities in the Russian Federation

Article VI of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (OST) prescribes following forms of control over outer space activities: licensing, certification, insurance. They allow states to ensure compliance with their international obligations in the area of security of outer space activities and provide compensation for damages resulting from them, should a case arise. Meanwhile, detailed provisions on licensing and insurance of outer space activities are absent in international law thus leaving their regulation to be done by states, which bear all the responsibility for their national outer space activities. Respective provisions are also reflected in the Russian legislation. In particular, based on the Administrative Regulations adopted in 2020, licensing of outer space activities is conducted by the State Corporation “Roscosmos”. The document establishes terms,

18 GOST R 53802-2010 “Space systems and complexes. Terms and definitions”, 1 July 2011. <https://files.stroyinf.ru/Index2/1/4293808/4293808570.htm>, (accessed 14 December 2021).

procedure and requirements necessary to obtain a license.¹⁹ Such license can only be obtained for exercise of activities and provision of services, which conform the licensing requirements, as well as for those rocket-space technologies, which were listed in the request for provision of a license. Virtually all activities are subject to licensing in Russia, save for fundamental scientific, economic researches and organization of outer space activities' governance; exploratory scientific researches in the area of creation of advanced outer space technologies, and; developmental prototypes not suited for fly-outs as part of outer space systems and facilities.

Given that the outer space exploitation is directly linked to the state's technological capabilities, the strict licensing policy creates no obstacles for scientific and experimental researches. Although it appears that legislation in that area is in need of constant development due to growing numbers of non-state actors involved in outer space activities, as well as growing risks of damages to foreign persons and property.

Apart from licensing, compulsory procedures of certification and declaration of outer space technics are in place in the Russian Federation (art.1).²⁰ These procedures refer to outer space objects, objects of outer space infrastructure, created for scientific and social-economic purposes. Such procedures also expand upon the facilities used for creation and utilization of outer space technics. These measures allow to ensure that the technics used meet the security requirements to the end of minimizing the amount of unsuccessful launches and destruction of objects for technical reasons.

The insurance market in the area of outer space activities exists for 25 years in Russia. However, an integral insurance system, that could provide effective financial protection of economic interests of separate entities, organizations of the rocket-space industry, as well as the state, is not formed for a number of reasons. This is evident from multibillion financial losses due to unsuccessful launches and malfunctions of outer space objects during their exploitation.²¹ A draft law "On compulsory insurance of risks in exercise of space activities"²² is still under consideration. The law aims to allow on the insurance market only companies, whose nominal capital is formed without

19 Order of the State Corporation for Space Activities "ROSCOSMOS" "On approval of the Administrative Regulations of the State Corporation for Space Activities "Roskosmos" for the provision of public services for licensing space activities" dated September 10, 2020 N 245. <https://docs.cntd.ru/document/566009038>, (accessed 28 December 2021).

20 Law of the Russian Federation "On Space Activities" (as amended on June 11, 2021). Art. 10. <https://docs.cntd.ru/document/9033683>, (accessed 27 December 2021).

21 S.L. Parshina, E.L. Farafontova Problems of legal regulation of risk insurance of space projects. The main trends in the development of Russian legislation, 2017. Pp. 188 - 189.

22 Draft of the Federal Law "On obligatory insurance of risks when carrying out space activities". <https://textarchive.ru/c-1517443.html>, (accessed 12 December 2021).

foreign investment, and those capable to provide proper reinsurance protection of the risks of outer space activities. The law attempts to remove foreign insurance agencies, which have formed a majority of the market.

The law “On Outer Space Activities” contains a progressive provision according to which organizations and citizens, which utilize outer space equipment or those who assign such activities, must arrange that life and health of the cosmonauts and workers of the facilities occupied with outer space activities, are insured, same as liability for damage caused to life, health and property of others (art. 25) [20]. As a rule, insurance in the Russian Federation is done simultaneously with several agencies, including reinsurance companies, given sheer extents of damage usual for outer space activities. For instance, due to an unsuccessful launch of the “Soyuz-2.1b” carrier rocket with the “Fregat” upper-stage rocket in 2017, damages compensated under a contract, have exceeded 2.5 billion roubles.²³ Overall, the insurance market in Russia is fairly young, making foreign experience in the area highly employable. Underdeveloped legislation in the area is partly warranted by poor development of the commercial sector of outer space activities, which can be said to postpone improvement of the outer space sector as a whole. That is due to insufficiency of the state’s resources to ensure rapid and effective realization of outer space programmes and projects to their fullest potential. Development of the commercial outer space sector corresponds to the outer space policy of the Russian Federation, which aims, among others, at “growth and utilization of concurrent capabilities of Russia in the outer space area, its prominence as one of the leading participants of the world market of outer space products (works and services) and development of the internal market”.²⁴

Overall, it is noteworthy that the Russian legislation in the outer space area is in full conformity with its international obligations, as well as its principles, according to which the Russian Federation aims – as part of its tasks for the period until 2030²⁵ – to take active part in consideration of matters related to development of international space law. This includes the question of viability of drafting a universal Convention on outer space under the auspices

23 The site of the insurance company “Megaruss-D”, <https://www.megaruss-d.ru/news>, (accessed 12 December 2021)

24 Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 19.04.2013 Pr-906 “Basic provisions of the foundations of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the field of space activities for the period up to 2030 and beyond”. <https://legalacts.ru/doc/osnovnye-polozhenija-osnov-gosudarstvennoi-politiki-rossiiskoi-federatsii/>, (accessed 12 December 2021).

25 Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 19.04.2013 Pr-906 “Basic provisions of the foundations of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the field of space activities for the period up to 2030 and beyond”. <https://legalacts.ru/doc/osnovnye-polozhenija-osnov-gosudarstvennoi-politiki-rossiiskoi-federatsii/>, (accessed 12 December 2021).

of the United Nations, whilst securing interests of the Russian Federation; maintaining principled line within the UN and other international forums that outer space may only be used for pacific purposes, which includes holding the Russian approaches to development of a Treaty on prevention of weaponization of outer space, improving transparency and confidence in outer space activities, while ensuring its security and lasting sustainability, as well as take active part in consideration and decision-making in issues of technogenic pollution of the near-Earth space, including questions of prevention and removal of space debris from operational orbits.

3. Conclusions

States' domestic legislation plays a crucial role in conduct of outer space activities for it ensures conformity with international obligations; provides for emergence and creation of customary international law; contains regulations, which the body of international law is lacking. In this view it is important that domestic regulations reflect, firstly, states' national interests in outer space, while not confronting interests of other states and diminishing the stability of international regulation of outer space activities. It is where provisions of the Russian national legislation are an example of effective governance consistent with international legal obligations in area of outer space.

Separation of general provisions in several federal laws calls the government to draft a universal outer space code, thus creating an integrated basis for outer space activities taking into account the whole specifics of the area in question. It is, to an extent, relatable to the proposal of creation of a universal convention on outer space instead of five separate treaties.

On the one hand, Russian legislation duplicates certain weaknesses inherent to the international regulations. In particular, such definitions as "outer space", "outer space object" are absent. On the other hand, unilateral adoption of definitions, which form part of the body of international space law, is undesirable as being capable of creating tense situations, given the states' growing interest in outer space.

Russian legislation contains provisions governing procedures for exercise of the most crucial – from the standpoint of control and monitoring over the national activities – procedures, in particular, licensing, certification and insurance. Domestic governance in the area is aimed at ensuring compliance with international obligations and creation of possibilities for development of international legal regulations taking into account national practices.

Within the past 10 years the Russian Federation undertook measures to improve the rocket-space industry. This is facilitated, in particular, through adoption of progressive legal governance and development and adoption of route maps aimed at innovative-driven growth of outer space technologies. The state's approaches towards the state-private partnership within rocket-

space area are also changing – the state is more interested in its extension and growth.

Therefore, experience of the Russian Federation can serve as an example of the contribution of domestic legislation to promotion of states' national interests in outer space, while taking into account general interests of the international community as reflected in international treaties on outer space. Along with that, it is crucial that domestic regulations do not impugn the necessity to respect provisions of international law, given that outer space should remain an area of common interests open for research and utilization by each and every state.