



## PRESS RELEASE

### MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MOSTI)

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#### **MALAYSIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OUTER SPACE TREATIES UNDER UNCOPUOS MANIFESTS THE NATION'S COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE COOPERATION**

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**PUTRAJAYA, JUNE 26 2025** – Malaysia, through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), announced that the Cabinet Meeting on the 25 June 2025 has agreed for the country to accede to the Outer Space Treaties under the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS).

Two (2) of the five (5) Outer Space Treaties to be ratified and acceded to are 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 1967) and the "Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space" (REG 1975). This is a continuation of the full enforcement of the Malaysian Space Board Act 2022 [Act 834] on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, where the country now has a holistic and robust domestic space legal framework for the Government (through MOSTI) to accede to these Outer Space Treaties in line with the interests of national space industry development.

The Outer Space Treaties has laid the foundation of international space law, outlining key principles such as the exploration and use of the outer space for the benefit of all nations solely for peaceful purposes, and prohibiting the use of space platforms for military purposes.

The Cabinet's approval will enable MOSTI, through the Space Regulatory Division (BPAngkasa), to initiate local and international procedures together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (KLN) to finalize Malaysia's ratification and accession process, which requires the country to submit the instrument of ratification and accession to the treaty depositories in London, Moscow, or Washington.

MOSTI's Minister, YB Tuan Chang Lih Kang, stated that this accession is a historic step that can elevate the country's position as a responsible nation in the international space arena, in line with the principles of Act 834.

This initiative also aligns with the nation's aspiration to become an active and responsible player in the global space sector, in accordance with Thrust 5 of the National Space Policy 2030 (DAN2030), which is to enhance and strengthen international cooperation and networks. Through this ratification, the country will be able to voice its views on the importance of the space sector more effectively. This also reflects Malaysia's commitment to support the peaceful and responsible use of the outer space, and ensuring its sustainability. Malaysia is determined to play a constructive role in ensuring the outer space remains a domain of cooperation and peace, in line with the principles and spirit of the treaties.

This strategic step aims to protect national interests and ensure Malaysia is prepared to face challenges and seize opportunities in the rapidly growing global space sector, thereby signaling diplomatically that Malaysia is committed to being a responsible nation in its space activities. Indirectly, it will enhance the country's reputation as an emerging space nation and open up more potential for participating in various international space programs.

MOSTI also hopes that this will advance and boost the national space sector through international collaboration and cooperation to achieve the targets set by the National Space Policy 2030 Action Plan and realize Malaysia's vision as a high-tech nation by 2030.

In line with the values of sustainability promoted by Malaysia MADANI and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), MOSTI hopes that Malaysia's participation in these Outer Space Treaties will demonstrate Malaysia's continuous commitment to promoting international cooperation, ensuring the sustainable use of the outer space, and adhering to the principles enshrined in these treaties, thereby making Malaysia a responsible space nation.

For more information on this matter, please visit the website at <https://www.mosti.gov.my/bahagian-penguasa-angkasa/>.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UNCOPUOS was established in 1959 as one of the permanent committees under the United Nations General Assembly (UN). This committee is responsible for shaping the governance of the peaceful uses of the outer space globally and serves as a platform for strengthening international cooperation that benefits all humankind. The committee carries out its primary role in the development of five main space agreements or principles, known as the "Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies". This is implemented with the objective of regulating global space activities and ensuring that space activities are conducted for peaceful purposes only, safely, and capable of benefiting all. The management and implementation of UNCOPUOS's mandate are entrusted to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) through Resolution 1348 (XIII) of the UN General Assembly on December 13, 1958, as the official secretariat. Malaysia is currently a permanent member of UNCOPUOS since 2001.

### List of Outer Space Treaties under UNCOPUOS:

- Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (OST 1967) (116P, 21S)
- Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (ARRA 1968) (100P, 23S)
- Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (LIAB 1972) (100P, 23S)
- Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (REG 1975) (76P, 4S)
- Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (MOON 1979) (17P, 4S)

*\*P: Parties, S: Signatories 35*

*\*UN Members: 193 Countries 36*

*\*UNCOPUOS Members: 104 Countries 37*

Malaysia has signed two (2) of the five (5) Outer Space Treaties, namely OST 1967 and ARRA 1968, but has not yet ratified or acceded to any of them. Signing means that Malaysia, in principle, agrees with the clauses stated, has no objections, and expresses support for the Outer Space Treaties when presented at the UN, and has the intention to accede to them. Although not yet officially a member of any Outer Space Treaty, Malaysia has demonstrated its commitment by voluntarily complying with the provisions outlined in the Outer Space Treaties, especially regarding REG 1975, since the launch of the first Malaysian company's satellite, MEASAT-1, in January 1996.

The Outer Space Treaty Working Committee has been established under the Malaysian Space Board to examine the readiness, capabilities, and implications of accession before a recommendation for accession is made. This Working Committee comprises 19 relevant Ministries/ Departments/ Agencies and academia. Various initiatives have been carried out to gather input and views through workshops, engagement sessions, and meetings with national space sector stakeholders such as industry players, researchers, government agencies, academia, and others.