

– respectively the responsible States – have in the course of their privatizations drastically neglected the registration of their space objects). Secondly, it deals with the growing number of providers of launch facilities, which should not lead to situations where it is too complicated or where it is “forgotten” to determine the State that should register the space object. In addition, it suggests a way to deal with joint launches of space objects and finally proposes a way to find appropriate States to register in the nowadays broad sector of private space activities. With this set of recommendations the identification of the changed space environment is dramatically highlighted. This set of recommendations has only declaratory character and is non-binding for States, but if the application of existing international law will not be uniform in the future, formal amendments of the treaties might actually be inescapable. This would then be the only way of maintaining the basic principles of the space law regime (responsibility, liability) in a level-playing field, where flags of convenience will be made impossible. The States will then have to be more courageous than simply drafting U.N. General Assembly resolutions with restricted scope.

Another epitome of the new situation is contained in the third set of recommendations. It deals with the issue of transfer of ownership of space objects in orbit, already identified by the U.N. General Assembly resolution on the “launching State” (paragraph 4). For the cases of “changes in the supervision of a space object in orbit” (this legal expression relating to Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty was used in the text instead of “transfer of ownership”) some proposals are made about the content of information to be provided and who should be in charge of that.

The second last operative paragraph deals with a request to UNOOSA to make available registration forms and provide transparency on information to be provided by the States on their contact points and national registries. Finally, States and international organizations are recommended to report on new developments relating to their practice in registering space objects.

The perspectives for the resolution are that States will consider reflecting the recommendations in their national regulatory practice. Since numerous States are currently working on