



**UNIDROIT COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS
FOR THE PREPARATION OF A DRAFT PROTOCOL TO
THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS IN
MOBILE EQUIPMENT ON MATTERS SPECIFIC TO
SPACE ASSETS
Fourth session
Rome, 3/7 May 2010**

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*Revised version of the preliminary draft Protocol to the Convention on
International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Space Assets*

*(as proposed to the Drafting Committee by Sir Roy Goode (United Kingdom) and
Mr J.M. Deschamps (Canada), as Co-chairmen of the Drafting Committee,
to reflect the conclusions reached by the Committee of governmental experts at its third session,
held in Rome from 7 to 11 December 2009) **

THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS PROTOCOL,

CONSIDERING it desirable to implement the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (hereinafter referred to as the *Convention*) as it relates to space assets, in the light of the purposes set out in the preamble to the Convention,

MINDFUL of the need to adapt the Convention to meet the particular demand for and the utility of space assets and the need to finance their acquisition and use as efficiently as possible,

MINDFUL of the benefits to all States from expanded space-based services which the Convention and this Protocol will yield,

MINDFUL of the established principles of space law, including those contained in the international space treaties under the auspices of the United Nations,

MINDFUL of the continuing development of the international commercial space industry and recognising the need for a uniform and predictable regimen governing the taking of security over space assets and facilitating asset-based financing of the same,

HAVE AGREED upon the following provisions relating to space assets:

* *Note by the UNIDROIT Secretariat:* this revised version of the preliminary draft Protocol is currently before the Drafting Committee, for review, in line with the decision taken by the Committee of governmental experts at its third session (cf. C.G.E./Space Pr./3/Report rev., §§ 71 and 72). It incorporates not only those amendments made to the preliminary draft Protocol during the third session - in the case of additions, these are underlined and, in the case of deletions, struck through - but also language intended to cover those conclusions reached by the Committee of governmental experts but which the Drafting Committee did not have time to implement during that session - these are also either underlined or struck through but appear in bold print too.

CHAPTER I – SPHERE OF APPLICATION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article I – Defined terms

1. – In this Protocol, except where the context otherwise requires, terms used in it have the meanings set out in the Convention.

2. – In this Protocol the following terms are employed with the meanings set out below:

(a) “controlled”, in relation to goods, technology, data or services to which Article XXVII(2) applies means that their transfer is subject to governmental requirements or restrictions;

(b) “debtor’s rights” means all rights to payment or other performance due or to become due to a debtor by any person with respect to a space asset;

(c) “guarantee contract” means a contract entered into by a person as a guarantor;

(d) “guarantor” means a person who, for the purpose of assuring performance of any obligations in favour of a creditor secured by a security agreement or under an agreement, gives or issues a suretyship or demand guarantee or standby letter of credit or other form of credit insurance;

(e) “insolvency-related event” means: (i) the commencement of the insolvency proceedings; or (ii) the declared intention to suspend or actual suspension of payments by the debtor where the creditor’s right to institute insolvency proceedings against the debtor or to exercise remedies under the Convention is prevented or suspended by law or State action;

(f) “launch vehicle” means a vehicle used or intended to be used to transport persons or goods to or from space;

(g) “licence” means any permit, licence, authorisation, concession or equivalent instrument that is granted or issued by, or pursuant to the authority of, a national or intergovernmental or other international body or authority, when acting in a regulatory capacity, to manufacture, launch, control, use or operate a space asset, or relating to the use of orbits positions or the transmission, emission or reception of electromagnetic signals to and from a space asset;

(h) “primary insolvency jurisdiction” means the Contracting State in which the centre of the debtor’s main interests is situated, which for this purpose shall be deemed to be the place of the debtor’s statutory seat, or, if there is none, the place where the debtor is incorporated or formed, unless proved otherwise;

(i) “rights assignment” means a contract by which the debtor confers on the creditor an interest (including an ownership interest) in or over the whole or part of existing or future debtor’s rights to secure the performance of, or in reduction or discharge of, any existing or future obligation of the debtor to the creditor which under the agreement creating or providing for the international interest is secured by or associated with the space asset to which the agreement relates;

(j) “rights reassignment” means a contract by which the creditor transfers to the assignee, or an assignee transfers to a subsequent assignee, the whole or part of its rights and interest under a rights assignment;

(k) “space” means outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies; and

(l) “space asset” means any man-made uniquely identifiable asset ~~satellite, satellite bus, satellite transponder, payload, space station, space vehicle, reusable launch vehicle, reusable space capsule or any module or other object, in each case only where~~ [capable of being

independently owned, used or controlled,¹ in space or intended to be launched in or into space without losing its distinct identity, such as a satellite, space station, satellite bus, transponder, module, space vehicle, launch vehicle or space capsule or used or intended to be used as a launch vehicle, [including any such asset in course of manufacture or assembly], together with all ~~modules and other~~ installed, incorporated or attached accessories, parts and equipment and all data, manuals and records relating to its ownership, use or control ~~thereto~~.

3. – In the Convention and this Protocol references to a Contracting State, or territorial unit of a Contracting State, on the territory of which an object or space asset is located or situated or from which it is controlled shall, as regards a space asset when not on Earth, be treated as references to the State which is the State of registry of the object or space asset for the purposes of the United Nations Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space opened for signature in New York on 14 January 1975.

Note: this is to be amended to add reference to other instruments for completeness.

Article II – Application of the Convention as regards space assets and debtor's rights

1. – The Convention shall apply in relation to space assets and the assignment and reassignment of debtor's rights as provided by the terms of this Protocol.

2. – The Convention and this Protocol shall be known as the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment as applied to space assets.

3. – An object which is a space asset as defined by Article I(2)(l) shall not constitute an aircraft object for the purposes of the Convention as applied to aircraft objects, whether the object is on earth or in air or space.

Article III – Return of a space asset

The return of a space asset from space does not affect an international interest in that asset.

Article IV – Application of the Convention to sales and salvage insurance

1. - The following provisions of the Convention apply as if references to an agreement creating or providing for an international interest were references to a contract of sale and as if references to an international interest, a prospective international interest, the debtor and the creditor were references to a sale, a prospective sale, the seller and the buyer respectively:

- Articles 3 and 4;
- Article 16(1)(a);
- Article 19(4);
- Article 20(1) (as regards registration of a contract of sale or a prospective sale);
- Article 25(2) (as regards a prospective sale); and
- Article 30.

¹ It was agreed by the Committee of governmental experts at its third session that the square brackets placed around the words "capable of being independently owned, used or controlled" did not indicate disagreement with the need for some such language but rather the desirability of more appropriate language being found.

2. - The provisions of this Protocol applicable to rights assignments also apply to an assignment to the buyer of a space asset of rights to payment or other performance due or to become due to the seller by any person with respect to the space asset as if references to the debtor and the creditor were references to the seller and the buyer respectively.

3. - In addition, the general provisions of Article 1, Article 5, Chapters IV to VII, Article 29 (other than Article 29(3) which is replaced by Article XXIV), Chapter X, Chapter XII (other than Article 43), Chapter XIII and Chapter XIV (other than Article 60) shall apply to contracts of sale and prospective sales.

4. - For the purposes of Article III an interest in a space asset acquired by a satellite insurer as a salvage interest is deemed to have been acquired by way of sale.

5. - For the purposes of the Convention, when an insurer makes payment of insurance proceeds for a covered loss of an insured space asset in which a creditor has an international interest, the insurer shall have the right of subrogation to the creditor's associated rights and related international interest and any recorded debtor's rights in the space asset to the extent of the insurer's salvage interest. This right of subrogation shall be in addition to and shall not affect any right of subrogation the insurer may have under national law or the insurance policy.

Note: -see our separate note as to paras 2, 4 and 5.

Article V – Formalities, effects and registration of contracts of sale

1. – For the purposes of this Protocol, a contract of sale is one which:
 - (a) is in writing;
 - (b) relates to a space asset of which the seller has power to dispose; and
 - (c) enables the space asset to be identified in conformity with this Protocol.
2. – A contract of sale transfers the interest of the seller in the space asset to the buyer according to its terms.
3. – Registration of a contract of sale remains effective indefinitely. Registration of a prospective sale remains effective unless discharged or until expiry of the period, if any, specified in the registration.

Article VI – Representative capacities

A person may, in relation to a space asset, enter into an agreement or a contract of sale, effect a registration as defined by Article 16(3) of the Convention and assert rights and interests under the Convention in an agency, trust or representative capacity.

Article VII – Identification of space assets

1. – For the purposes of Article 7(c) of the Convention and Article V of this Protocol, a description of a space asset is sufficient to identify the space asset if it contains:
 - (a) a description of the space asset by item;
 - (b) a description of the space asset by type;

- (c) a statement that the agreement covers all present and future space assets; or
- (d) a statement that the agreement covers all present and future space assets except for specified items or types.

2. – For the purposes of Article 7 of the Convention, an interest in a future space asset identified in accordance with the preceding paragraph shall be constituted as an international interest as soon as the chargor, conditional seller or lessor acquires the power to dispose of the space asset, without the need for any new act of transfer.

Article VIII – Choice of law

1. – This Article applies unless a Contracting State has made a declaration pursuant to Article XL(1).

2. – The parties to an agreement, or a contract of sale, or a related guarantee contract or subordination agreement may agree on the law which is to govern their contractual rights and obligations, wholly or in part.

3. – Unless otherwise agreed, the reference in the preceding paragraph to the law chosen by the parties is to the domestic rules of law of the designated State or, where that State comprises several territorial units, to the domestic law of the designated territorial unit.

Note: it is for consideration whether to extend this Article to cover assignments and reassignments of debtor's rights. -We could offer a draft in square brackets.

Article IX – Formal requirements for rights assignment

An assignment of debtor's rights is constituted as a rights assignment where it is in writing and enables:

- (a) the debtor's rights the subject of the rights assignment agreement to be identified;
- (b) the space asset to which those rights relate to be identified; and
- (c) in the case of a rights assignment by way of security, the obligations secured by the agreement to be determined, but without the need to state a sum or maximum sum secured.

Article X – Effects of rights assignment

1. – ~~Except as otherwise agreed by the parties, a~~ rights assignment made in conformity with Article IX transfers to the creditor ~~all~~ the debtor's rights the subject of the rights assignment to the extent permitted by the applicable law.

2. – Subject to paragraph 3, the applicable law shall determine the defences and rights of set-off available to the grantor of debtor's rights against the creditor.

3. – The grantor of debtor's rights may at any time by agreement in writing waive all or any of the defences and rights of set-off referred to in the preceding paragraph other than defences arising from fraudulent acts on the part of the creditor.

Article XI – Assignment of future rights

A provision in a rights assignment by which future debtor's rights are assigned operates to confer on the creditor an interest in the assigned rights when they come into existence without the need for any new act of transfer.

*Article XII – Recording of rights assignment or acquisition by subrogation
as part of registration of international interest*

1. – The holder of an international interest or prospective international interest in a space asset ~~to~~ on whom the debtor has ~~conferred~~ granted an interest in or over debtor's rights under a rights assignment or who has acquired such an interest by subrogation may, when registering the international interest or prospective international interest or subsequently by amendment to such registration, record the rights assignment or acquisition by subrogation as part of the registration. Such record may identify the ~~assigned~~ rights so assigned or acquired either specifically or by a statement that the debtor has assigned, or the holder of the international interest or prospective international interest has acquired, all or some of the debtor's rights, without further specification.

2. – Articles 18, 19, 20(1) – (4) and 25(1), (2) and (4) of the Convention apply in relation to a record made in accordance with the preceding paragraph as if:

- (a) references to an international interest were references to a rights assignment;
- (b) references to registration were references to the recording of the rights assignment; and
- (c) references to the debtor were references to the grantor of the debtor's rights.

3. – A search certificate issued under Article 22 of the Convention shall include the particulars recorded.

4. – Where a rights assignment has been recorded as part of the registration of an international interest which is subsequently transferred in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the Convention, the transferee of the international interest acquires:

- (a) all the rights of the creditor under the rights assignment; and
- (b) the right to be shown in the record as assignee under the rights assignment.

5. – Discharge of the registration of an international interest also discharges any record forming part of that registration under paragraph 1.

Article XIII – Priority of recorded rights assignment

1. – Subject to paragraph 2, a recorded rights assignment has priority over any other rights assignment subsequently recorded and over an unrecorded rights assignment.

2. – Where a rights assignment is recorded in the registration of a prospective international interest it shall be treated as unrecorded unless and until the prospective international interest becomes an international interest, in which event the rights assignment has priority as from the time it was recorded.

Note: left for consideration at the next meeting was the priority as between an assignee of debtor's rights under a rights assignment and an assignee under an assignment of rights deriving from the space asset but unconnected to an international interest.

Article XIV – Rights grantor's duty to creditor

1. – To the extent that the debtor's rights have been assigned to the creditor under a rights assignment, the person from whom payment or other performance of the debtor's rights is due is bound by the rights assignment and has a duty to make payment or give other performance to the creditor, if but only if:

(a) such person has been given notice of the rights assignment in writing by or with the authority of the debtor; and

(b) the notice identifies the debtor's rights.

2. – For the purposes of the preceding paragraph, a notice given by the creditor after the debtor defaults in performance of any obligation secured by a rights assignment is given with the authority of the debtor.

3. – Irrespective of any other ground on which payment or performance by the grantor discharges the grantor from liability, payment or performance shall be effective for this purpose if made in accordance with paragraph 1.

4. – Nothing in this Article shall affect the priority of competing rights assignments.

Article XV – Rights reassignment

1. – Articles IX to XIV apply to a rights reassignment by the creditor or a subsequent assignee as if references to the creditor or holder were references to the assignee or subsequent assignee.

2. – A rights reassignment relating to an international interest in a space asset may be recorded only as part of the registration of the assignment of the international interest to the person to whom the rights reassignment was made.

Article XVI – Duty of ~~debtor assignor~~ as to licences

The ~~debtor assignor~~ under a rights assignment or rights reassignment shall at the request of the ~~creditor assignee~~ take all steps within its power to procure the transfer of its licence to the ~~creditor assignee~~ or the termination of its licence and the grant of a new licence to the ~~creditor assignee~~, and shall fully co-operate with the ~~creditor assignee~~ to that end.

Article XVII – Derogation

The parties may, by agreement in writing, exclude the application of Article XXII and, in their relations with each other, derogate from or vary the effect of any of the provisions of this Protocol except Article XVIII(2) - (3).

CHAPTER II – DEFAULT REMEDIES, PRIORITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Article XVIII – Modification of default remedies provisions as regards space assets

1. – This Article applies only where a Contracting State has made a declaration to that effect under Article XL(2) [and to the extent stated in such declaration].

2. – (a) Article 8(3) of the Convention shall not apply to space assets.

(b) In relation to space assets the following provisions shall apply:

(i) any remedy given by the Convention shall be exercised in a commercially reasonable manner;

(ii) a remedy shall be deemed to be exercised in a commercially reasonable manner where it is exercised in conformity with a provision of the agreement between the debtor and the creditor except where such a provision is manifestly unreasonable.

3. – A chargee giving ten or more working days' prior written notice of a proposed sale or lease to interested persons shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement of providing "reasonable prior notice" specified in Article 8(4) of the Convention. The foregoing shall not prevent a chargee and a chargor or a guarantor from agreeing to a longer period of prior notice.

[4. – Insert any provision as regards enforcement against a space asset functionally linked to another space asset in which another creditor has an interest].²

Article XIX – Default remedies as regards rights assignments and rights reassignments

1. – In the event of default by the debtor under a rights assignment by way of security Articles 8, 9 and 11 to 14 of the Convention apply in the relations between the debtor assignor and the creditor assignee (and in relation to the debtor's rights apply in so far as those provisions are capable of application to intangible property) as if references:

(a) to the secured obligations and the security interest were references to the obligations secured by the rights assignment and the security interest created by that assignment;

~~(b) to the chargee or creditor and chargor or debtor were references to the assignee and assignor;~~

(b) to the object were references to the debtor's rights.

2. – In the event of default by the assignor in performance of any obligation secured by a rights reassignment made by way of security the preceding paragraph applies as if references to the assignment were references to the reassignment.

² ~~Pursuant to a decision of the Sub-committee on default remedies in relation to components, as endorsed by the Steering Committee at its meeting in Paris on 14 and 15 May 2009, informal negotiations are taking place between the Governments of Germany and the United States of America for the preparation of a joint proposal to be submitted to the Committee of governmental experts at its forthcoming session. An informal working group on default remedies in relation to components was established by the Committee of governmental experts at its third session. The Informal Working Group reported at the conclusion of that session that, whilst it had made considerable progress, time had not permitted the reaching of a definitive conclusion. It was, therefore, agreed that the Informal Working Group should continue its work informally with a view to submitting an agreed solution to the following session of the Committee of governmental experts.~~

Article XX – Placement of data and materials

The parties to an agreement may specifically agree for the placement of command codes and other data and materials with another person in order to afford the creditor the opportunity to take possession of, establish control over or operate the space asset.

Article XXI – Modification of provisions regarding relief pending final determination

1. – This Article applies only where a Contracting State has made a declaration to that effect under Article XL(3) and to the extent stated in such declaration.

2. – For the purposes of Article 13(1) of the Convention, “speedy” in the context of obtaining relief means within such number of working days from the date of filing of the application for relief as is specified in a declaration made by the Contracting State in which the application is made.

3. – Article 13(1) of the Convention applies with the following being added immediately after sub-paragraph (d):

“(e) if at any time the debtor and the creditor specifically agree, sale and application of proceeds therefrom”,

and Article 43(2) applies with the insertion after the words “Article 13(1)(d)” of the words “and (e)”.

4. – Ownership or any other interest of the debtor passing on a sale under the preceding paragraph is free from any other interest over which the creditor’s international interest has priority under the provisions of Article 29 of the Convention.

[5. – The creditor and the debtor or any other interested person may agree in writing to exclude the application of Article 13(2) of the Convention.]

Article XXII – Remedies on insolvency

1. – This Article applies only where a Contracting State that is the primary insolvency jurisdiction has made a declaration pursuant to Article XL(4).

Alternative A

2. – Upon the occurrence of an insolvency-related event, the insolvency administrator or the debtor, as applicable, shall, subject to paragraph 7, give possession of or control and operation over the space asset to the creditor no later than the earlier of:

(a) the end of the waiting period; and

(b) the date on which the creditor would be entitled to possession of or control and operation over the space asset if this Article did not apply.

3. – For the purposes of this Article, the “waiting period” shall be the period specified in a declaration of the Contracting State which is the primary insolvency jurisdiction.

4. – References in this Article to the “insolvency administrator” shall be to that person in its official, not in its personal, capacity.

5. – Unless and until the creditor is given possession of or control and operation over the space asset under paragraph 2:

(a) the insolvency administrator or the debtor, as applicable, shall preserve the space asset and maintain it and its value in accordance with the agreement; and

(b) the creditor shall be entitled to apply for any other forms of interim relief available under the applicable law.

6. – Sub-paragraph (a) of the preceding paragraph shall not preclude the use of the space asset under arrangements designed to preserve the space asset and maintain it and its value.

7. – The insolvency administrator or the debtor, as applicable, may retain possession of or control and operation over the space asset where, by the time specified in paragraph 2, it has cured all defaults other than a default constituted by the opening of insolvency proceedings and has agreed to perform all future obligations under the agreement. A second waiting period shall not apply in respect of a default in the performance of such future obligations.

8. – No exercise of remedies permitted by the Convention or this Protocol may be prevented or delayed after the date specified in paragraph 2.

9. – No obligations of the debtor under the agreement may be modified without the consent of the creditor.

10. – Nothing in the preceding paragraph shall be construed to affect the authority, if any, of the insolvency administrator under the applicable law to terminate the agreement.

11. – No rights or interests, except for non-consensual rights or interests of a category covered by a declaration pursuant to Article 39(1) of the Convention, shall have priority in insolvency proceedings over registered interests.

12. – The Convention as modified by Article XVIII of this Protocol shall apply to the exercise of any remedies under this Article.

Alternative B

2. – Upon the occurrence of an insolvency-related event, the insolvency administrator or the debtor, as applicable, upon the request of the creditor, shall give notice to the creditor within the time specified in a declaration of a Contracting State pursuant to Article XL(4) whether it will:

(a) cure all defaults other than a default constituted by the opening of insolvency proceedings and agree to perform all future obligations, under the agreement and related transaction documents; or

(b) give the creditor the opportunity to take possession of or control and operation over the space asset, in accordance with the applicable law.

3. – The applicable law referred to in sub-paragraph (b) of the preceding paragraph may permit the court to require the taking of any additional step or the provision of any additional guarantee.

4. – The creditor shall provide evidence of its claims and proof that its international interest has been registered.

5. – If the insolvency administrator or the debtor, as applicable, does not give notice in conformity with paragraph 2, or when it has declared that it will give the creditor the opportunity to take possession of or control and operation over the space asset but fails to do so, the court may permit the creditor to take possession of or control and operation over the space asset upon such terms as the court may order and may require the taking of any additional step or the provision of any additional guarantee.

6. – The space asset shall not be sold pending a decision by a court regarding the claim and the international interest.

Article XXIII – Insolvency assistance

1. – This Article applies only where a Contracting State has made a declaration pursuant to Article XL(1).

2. – The courts of a Contracting State: (i) in which the space asset is situated; (ii) from which the space asset may be controlled; (iii) in which the debtor is located; or (iv) otherwise having a close connection with the space asset, shall—[, in accordance with the law of the Contracting State,] co-operate to the maximum extent possible with foreign courts and foreign insolvency administrators in carrying out the provisions of Article XXII.

Article XXIV – Modification of priority provisions

~~1. — A buyer of a space asset under a registered sale acquires its interest in that asset free from an interest subsequently registered and from an unregistered interest, even if the buyer has actual knowledge of the unregistered interest.~~
1. — A buyer of a space asset under a registered sale has priority over any other sale subsequently registered and also has priority over an unregistered sale acquires its interest in that asset free from an interest subsequently registered and from an unregistered interest, even if the buyer has actual knowledge of the unregistered interest.

~~2. — A buyer of a space asset under a registered sale acquires its interest in that asset subject to an interest registered at the time of its acquisition.~~

Article XXV – Modification of assignment provisions

Article 33(1) of the Convention applies with the following being added immediately after sub-paragraph (b):

“and (c) the debtor has consented in writing, whether or not the consent is given in advance of the assignment or identifies the assignee.”

Article XXVI – Debtor provisions

1. – In the absence of a default within the meaning of Article 11 of the Convention, the debtor shall be entitled to the quiet possession and use of the space asset in accordance with the agreement as against:

(a) its creditor and the holder of any interest from which the debtor takes free pursuant to Article 29(4)(b) of the Convention or, in the capacity of buyer, Article XXIV(1) of this Protocol, unless and to the extent that the debtor has otherwise agreed; and

(b) the holder of any interest to which the debtor's right or interest is subject pursuant to Article 29(4)(a) of the Convention or, in the capacity of buyer, Article XXIV(2) of this Protocol, but only to the extent, if any, that such holder has agreed.

2. – Nothing in the Convention or this Protocol affects the liability of a creditor for any breach of the agreement under the applicable law in so far as that agreement relates to space assets.

Article XXVII – Limitations on remedies

1. – This Article applies only where a Contracting State has made a declaration pursuant to Article XL(1).

2. – A Contracting State [, in accordance with its laws and regulations,] may restrict or attach conditions to the exercise of the remedies provided in Chapter III of the Convention and Chapter II of this Protocol, including the placement of command codes and other data and materials pursuant to Article XX, where the exercise of such remedies would involve or require the transfer of controlled goods, technology, data or services, or would involve the transfer or assignment of a licence, or the grant of a new licence, to the creditor.

~~{3. – A Contracting State may, at the time of ratification, acceptance, approval of, or accession to this Protocol, declare whether and to which extent the remedies provided in Chapter III of the Convention and in Articles XVIII to XXIII of this Protocol shall be exercisable for space assets as far as they are used for establishing or maintaining its public services as specified in its declaration or determined by a competent authority of that State notified to the Depository.}~~²

~~{3. – A Contracting State may, at the time of ratification, acceptance, approval of, or accession to this Protocol, declare any limitations to the exercise of remedies provided in Chapter III of the Convention and in Articles XVIII to XXIII of this Protocol with respect to space assets designed and used for flight control and navigation of aircraft, maritime navigation, search and rescue and similar public services as specified in its declaration or determined by a competent authority of that State notified to the Depository.}~~³

³ — The Sub-committee on public service proposed a menu of nine options from which Contracting States could make a selection by declaration at the time of ratification or accession. Subject to further elaboration on precise wording these were:

- the holder of an international interest in a space asset providing a public service may not exercise default remedies that would result in the interruption of that public service;
- the holder of an international interest in a space asset providing a public service shall have the right to exercise a "step-in" right in the event of default by the debtor providing that public service;
- a Contracting State shall have the right to exercise a "step-in" right in the event of default by a debtor providing a public service;
- fair compensation shall be provided to the holder of an international interest in a space asset providing a public service in the event that a Contracting State intervenes in the operation of that asset;
- default remedies may only be exercised after the elapsing of a specified period of time;
- where a privately owned space asset provides public services to more than one Contracting State, a Contracting State shall declare how it will perform its overall obligations in respect of that asset, for example by the granting of compensation or the exercising of a "step-in" right;
- a Contracting State may record a notice with the future International Registry in respect of a space asset providing a public service, the effect of which will be, first, that any creditor having registered an international interest in that space asset prior to the recording of such notice may only exercise any default remedy that he possesses under the Convention as applied to space assets to the extent that the Contracting State does not elect to assume the obligations of the defaulting debtor and, secondly, that any creditor having registered an international interest in

[Article XXVII bis – Limitations on remedies in respect of public service

1. - A State has the right to object to the exercise of default remedies, as provided in Chapter III of the Convention and Articles XVIII to XXIII of this Protocol, in respect of a space asset needed for the provision or maintenance of a public service which is in the vital interest of that State if the exercise of those remedies would cause interruption in the provision or maintenance of that service.

2. - Within twenty days from the date on which the State has notified the creditor of its objection to the exercise of remedies under the preceding paragraph, the creditor may exercise the right to step in and assume responsibility for the provision or maintenance of the relevant service in the State concerned or appoint a substitute entity for that purpose, with the consent of that State and of the licencing State.

3. - If the creditor chooses not to exercise its rights under the preceding paragraph, the State that objects to the exercise of default remedies by the creditor under paragraph 1 shall have the option of:

(a) curing the default by the debtor by paying to the creditor all sums outstanding for the entire period of default; or

(b) taking or procuring possession, use or control of the space asset and assuming the debtor's obligations by stepping into the obligations of the debtor for the provision of a public service in the State concerned.⁴

4. - A State that objects to the exercise of default remedies by the creditor under paragraph 1 shall exercise its rights under the preceding paragraph within ninety days. After such period, the creditor shall be free to exercise any of the remedies provided in Chapter III of the Convention and in Articles XVIII to XXIII of this Protocol, in respect of the relevant space asset.⁵

5. - A State may only invoke the right to object to the exercise of default remedies in accordance with this Article if it has registered in the International Registry a notice recording that the space asset is used for providing a public service in the vital interest of that State prior to the registration of an international interest in that space

~~the space asset after the recording of such notice may only exercise any default remedy that he possesses under the Convention as applied to space assets to the extent that the public service in question is not thereby interrupted;~~

- ~~•a Contracting State may determine the application of public service limitations on a case-by-case basis, namely at the time of the issuing of a licence or permit for the operation of a space asset intended to be used for the provision of a public service; and/or~~
- ~~•a Contracting State may, at the time when the space financing project arises, agree with the holder of an international interest in a space asset providing a public service as to the conditions necessary for "step-in" rights to be exercised.~~

~~The Steering Committee endorsed these proposals with two additional options, namely a provision for the arbitration of disputes concerning the maintenance of a public service being performed by a space asset and the solution offered by Article XXV of the Luxembourg Protocol.~~

⁴ During the discussion of these provisions, it was noted that further information would be needed on the practical implications of the question as to how a State could exercise a step in right in respect of an operator licenced in a foreign country or operating through equipment located in a third country

⁵ During the discussion of these provisions, it was noted that further consultation would be needed on the question as to whether the time-periods provided in this Article should preclude a filing for insolvency during the ninety-day period by the debtor or by a third party against the debtor.

asset by a creditor [or if it has registered such notice within six months of the launch of a space object, even if after the registration of an international interest by the creditor].]

CHAPTER III – REGISTRY PROVISIONS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS IN SPACE ASSETS

Article XXVIII – The Supervisory Authority

1. – The Supervisory Authority shall be designated at the Diplomatic Conference to Adopt a Space Assets Protocol to the Cape Town Convention, provided that such Supervisory Authority is able and willing to act in such capacity.

2. – The Supervisory Authority and its officers and employees shall enjoy such immunity from legal and administrative process as is provided under the rules applicable to them as an international entity or otherwise.

3. – The Supervisory Authority may establish a commission of experts, from among persons nominated by Signatory and Contracting States and having the necessary qualifications and experience, and entrust it with the task of assisting the Supervisory Authority in the discharge of its functions.

Article XXIX – First regulations

The first regulations shall be made by the Supervisory Authority so as to take effect on the entry into force of this Protocol.

Article XXX – Identification of space assets for registration purposes

1. – With respect to a space asset that has not been launched, a description of the space asset that contains the name of its manufacturer, its manufacturer's serial number, and its model designation, ~~A description of a satellite that contains the name of the manufacturer, the model, the launch site, the launch date, the orbital parameters (including inclination, nodal period, apogee and perigee), and the general function of the space asset,~~ and satisfies such other requirements as may be established in the regulations is necessary and sufficient to identify the space asset for the purposes of registration in the International Registry. After launch of the space asset the creditor may add to its registration data all or any of the additional data specified in paragraph 2 but failure to do so or the addition of incorrect data shall not affect the validity of the registration.

2. – ~~[Insert separate identification criteria for each other category of space asset, incorporating a similar reference to additional criteria prescribed by the regulations].~~ With respect to a space asset that has been launched, a description of the space asset that contains the date and time of its launch, its launch site, the name of its launch provider and [...] and satisfies such other requirements as may be established in the regulations is necessary and sufficient to identify the space asset for the purposes of registration in the International Registry.

Article XXXI – Additional modifications to Registry provisions

1. – For the purposes of Article 19(6) of the Convention, the search criteria for space assets shall be the criteria specified in Article XXX of this Protocol.

2. – For the purposes of Article 25(2) of the Convention, and in the circumstances there described, the holder of a registered prospective international interest or a registered prospective assignment of an international interest shall take such steps as are within its power to procure the discharge of the registration no later than five working days after the receipt of the demand described in such paragraph.

[3. – Where a space asset in respect of which an interest has been registered is not in or launched into space within [one year] of such registration, the holder of such interest shall, without undue delay, procure the discharge of the registration after written demand by the debtor delivered to or received at the address stated in the registration].

3. [*bis*] – The fees referred to in Article 17(2)(h) of the Convention shall be determined so as to recover the reasonable costs of establishing, operating and regulating the International Registry and the reasonable costs of the Supervisory Authority associated with the performance of the functions, exercise of the powers and discharge of the duties contemplated by Article 17(2) of the Convention.

4. – The centralised functions of the International Registry shall be operated and administered by the Registrar on a twenty-four hour basis.

5. – The insurance or financial guarantee referred to in Article 28(4) shall cover all liability of the Registrar under the Convention.

6. – Nothing in the Convention shall preclude the Registrar from procuring insurance or a financial guarantee covering events for which the Registrar is not liable under Article 28 of the Convention.

CHAPTER IV – JURISDICTION

Article XXXII – Waiver of sovereign immunity

1. – Subject to paragraph 2, a waiver of sovereign immunity from jurisdiction of the courts specified in Article 42 or Article 43 of the Convention or relating to enforcement of rights and interests relating to a space asset under the Convention shall be binding and, if the other conditions to such jurisdiction or enforcement have been satisfied, shall be effective to confer jurisdiction and permit enforcement, as the case may be.

2. – A waiver under the preceding paragraph must be in writing and contain a description, in accordance with Article VII, of the space asset.

CHAPTER V – RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS

Article XXXIII – Relationship with the UNIDROIT Convention on International Financial Leasing

The Convention as applied to space assets shall supersede the *UNIDROIT Convention on International Financial Leasing* in respect of the subject matter of this Protocol, as between States Parties to both Conventions.

[Article XXXIV – Relationship with the United Nations Outer Space Treaties and instruments of the International Telecommunication Union

The Convention as applied to space assets does not affect State Party rights and obligations under the existing United Nations Outer Space Treaties or instruments of the International Telecommunication Union.]

[CHAPTER VI – FINAL PROVISIONS ⁶*Article XXXV – Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession*

1. – This Protocol shall be open for signature in ... on ... by States participating in the Diplomatic Conference to Adopt a Space Assets Protocol to the Cape Town Convention held at ... from ... to After ..., this Protocol shall be open to all States for signature at ... until it enters into force in accordance with Article XXXVII.

2. – This Protocol shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by States which have signed it.

3. – Any State which does not sign this Protocol may accede to it at any time.

4. – Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession is effected by the deposit of a formal instrument to that effect with the Depositary.

5. – A State may not become a Party to this Protocol unless it is or becomes also a Party to the Convention.

Article XXXVI – Regional Economic Integration Organisations

1. – A Regional Economic Integration Organisation which is constituted by sovereign States and has competence over certain matters governed by this Protocol may similarly sign, accept, approve or accede to this Protocol. The Regional Economic Integration Organisation shall in that case have the rights and obligations of a Contracting State, to the extent that that Organisation has competence over matters governed by this Protocol. Where the number of Contracting States

⁶ [It is envisaged that, in line with practice, draft Final Provisions will be prepared for the diplomatic Conference at such time as the Committee of governmental experts has completed its work. The draft Final Provisions set out in Chapter VI are in no way intended to prejudice that process. They are based on the Final Provisions contained in the Aircraft Protocol.](#)

is relevant in this Protocol, the Regional Economic Integration Organisation shall not count as a Contracting State in addition to its Member States which are Contracting States.

2. – The Regional Economic Integration Organisation shall, at the time of signature, acceptance, approval or accession, make a declaration to the Depositary specifying the matters governed by this Protocol in respect of which competence has been transferred to that Organisation by its Member States. The Regional Economic Integration Organisation shall promptly notify the Depositary of any changes to the distribution of competence, including new transfers of competence, specified in the declaration under this paragraph.

3. – Any reference to a “Contracting State” or “Contracting States” or “State Party” or “States Parties” in this Protocol applies equally to a Regional Economic Integration Organisation where the context so requires.

Article XXXVII – Entry into force

1. – This Protocol enters into force between the States which have deposited instruments referred to in sub-paragraph (a) on the later of:

(a) the first day of the month following the expiration of three months after the date of the deposit of the [fifth] instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, and

(b) the date of the deposit by [the Secretariat] with the Depositary of a certificate confirming that the International Registry is fully operational.

2. – For other States this Protocol enters into force on the first day of the month following the later of:

(a) the expiration of three months after the date of the deposit of their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession; and

(b) the date referred to in sub-paragraph (b) of the preceding paragraph.

Article XXXVIII – Territorial units

1. – If a Contracting State has territorial units in which different systems of law are applicable in relation to the matters dealt with in this Protocol, it may, at the time of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, declare that this Protocol is to extend to all its territorial units or only to one or more of them and may modify its declaration by submitting another declaration at any time.

2. – Any such declaration shall state expressly the territorial units to which this Protocol applies.

3. – If a Contracting State has not made any declaration under paragraph 1, this Protocol shall apply to all territorial units of that State.

4. – Where a Contracting State extends this Protocol to one or more of its territorial units, declarations permitted under this Protocol may be made in respect of each such territorial unit, and the declarations made in respect of one territorial unit may be different from those made in respect of another territorial unit.

5. – If by virtue of a declaration under paragraph 1, this Protocol extends to one or more territorial units of a Contracting State:

(a) the debtor is considered to be situated in a Contracting State only if it is incorporated or formed under a law in force in a territorial unit to which the Convention and this Protocol apply or if it has its registered office or statutory seat, centre of administration, place of business or habitual residence in a territorial unit to which the Convention and this Protocol apply;

(b) any reference to the location of the space asset in a Contracting State refers to the location of the space asset in a territorial unit to which the Convention and this Protocol apply; and

(c) any reference to the administrative authorities in that Contracting State shall be construed as referring to the administrative authorities having jurisdiction in a territorial unit to which the Convention and this Protocol apply.

Article XXXIX – Transitional Provisions

In relation to space assets Article 60 of the Convention shall be modified as follows:

(a) in paragraph 2(a), after "situated" insert "at the time the right or interest is created or arises";

(b) replace paragraph 3 with the following:

"3. – A Contracting State may in its declaration under paragraph 1 specify a date, not earlier than three years after the date on which the declaration becomes effective, when Articles 29, 35 and 36 of the Convention as modified or supplemented by the Protocol will become applicable, to the extent and in the manner specified in the declaration, to pre-existing rights or interests arising under an agreement made at a time when the debtor was situated in that State. Any priority of the right or interest under the law of that State, so far as applicable, shall continue if the right or interest is registered in the International Registry before the expiration of the period specified in the declaration, whether or not any other right or interest has previously been registered."

Article XL – Declarations relating to certain provisions

1. – A Contracting State may, at the time of ratification, acceptance, approval of, or accession to this Protocol, declare:

(a) that it will not apply Article VIII;

(b) that it will apply either or both of Articles XXIII and XXVII.

2. – A Contracting State may, at the time of ratification, acceptance, approval of, or accession to this Protocol, declare that it will apply Article XVIII [wholly or in part].

3. – A Contracting State may, at the time of ratification, acceptance, approval of, or accession to this Protocol, declare that it will apply Article XXI wholly or in part. If it so declares with respect to Article XXI(2), it shall specify the time-period required thereby.

4. – A Contracting State may, at the time of ratification, acceptance, approval of, or accession to this Protocol, declare that it will apply the entirety of Alternative A, or the entirety of Alternative B of Article XXII and, if so, shall specify the types of insolvency proceeding, if any, to which it will apply Alternative A and the types of insolvency proceeding, if any, to which it will apply

Alternative B. A Contracting State making a declaration pursuant to this paragraph shall specify the time-period required by Article XXII.

5. – The courts of Contracting States shall apply Article XXII in conformity with the declaration made by the Contracting State that is the primary insolvency jurisdiction.

Article XLI – Declarations under the Convention

Declarations made under the Convention, including those made under Articles 39, 40, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58 and 60 of the Convention, shall be deemed to have also been made under this Protocol unless stated otherwise.

Article XLII – Reservations and declarations

1. – No reservations may be made to this Protocol but declarations authorised by Articles XXXVIII, XL, XLI and XLIII may be made in accordance with these provisions.

2. – Any declaration or subsequent declaration or any withdrawal of a declaration made under this Protocol shall be notified in writing to the Depositary.

Article XLIII – Subsequent declarations

1. – A State Party may make a subsequent declaration, other than the declaration made in accordance with Article XLI under Article 60 of the Convention, at any time after the date on which this Protocol has entered into force for it, by notifying the Depositary to that effect.

2. – Any such subsequent declaration shall take effect on the first day of the month following the expiration of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Depositary. Where a longer period for that declaration to take effect is specified in the notification, it shall take effect upon the expiration of such longer period after receipt of the notification by the Depositary.

3. – Notwithstanding the previous paragraphs, this Protocol shall continue to apply, as if no such subsequent declaration had been made, in respect of all rights and interests arising prior to the effective date of any such subsequent declaration.

Article XLIV – Withdrawal of declarations

1. – Any State Party having made a declaration under this Protocol, other than a declaration made in accordance with Article XLI under Article 60 of the Convention, may withdraw it at any time by notifying the Depositary. Such withdrawal is to take effect on the first day of the month following the expiration of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Depositary.

2. – Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, this Protocol shall continue to apply, as if no such withdrawal of declaration had been made, in respect of all rights and interests arising prior to the effective date of any such withdrawal of declaration.

Article XLV – Denunciations

1. – Any State Party may denounce this Protocol by notification in writing to the Depositary.
2. – Any such denunciation shall take effect on the first day of the month following the expiration of twelve months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Depositary.
3. – Notwithstanding the previous paragraphs, this Protocol shall continue to apply, as if no such denunciation had been made, in respect of all rights and interests arising prior to the effective date of any such denunciation.

Article XLVI – Review Conferences, amendments and related matters

1. – The Depositary, in consultation with the Supervisory Authority, shall prepare reports yearly, or at such other time as the circumstances may require, for the States Parties as to the manner in which the international regimen established in the Convention as amended by the Protocol has operated in practice. In preparing such reports, the Depositary shall take into account the reports of the Supervisory Authority concerning the functioning of the international registration system.
2. – At the request of not less than twenty-five per cent of the States Parties, Review Conferences of the States Parties shall be convened from time to time by the Depositary, in consultation with the Supervisory Authority, to consider:
 - (a) the practical operation of the Convention as amended by this Protocol and its effectiveness in facilitating the asset-based financing and leasing of the assets covered by its terms;
 - (b) the judicial interpretation given to, and the application made of the terms of this Protocol and the regulations;
 - (c) the functioning of the international registration system, the performance of the Registrar and its oversight by the Supervisory Authority, taking into account the reports of the Supervisory Authority; and
 - (d) whether any modifications to this Protocol or the arrangements relating to the International Registry are desirable.

3.– Any amendment to this Protocol shall be approved by at least a two-thirds majority of States Parties participating in the Conference referred to in the preceding paragraph and shall then enter into force in respect of States Parties which have ratified, accepted or approved such amendment when it has been ratified, accepted or approved by [five] States Parties in accordance with the provisions of Article XXXVII relating to its entry into force.

Article XLVII – Depositary and its functions

1. – Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with ..., which is hereby designated the Depositary.
2. – The Depositary shall:
 - (a) inform all Contracting States of:
 - (i) each new signature or deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, together with the date thereof;

- (ii) the date of entry into force of this Protocol;
 - (iii) each declaration made in accordance with this Protocol, together with the date thereof;
 - (iv) the withdrawal or amendment of any declaration, together with the date thereof; and
 - (v) the notification of any denunciation of this Protocol together with the date thereof and the date on which it takes effect;
- (b) transmit certified true copies of this Protocol to all Contracting States;
- (c) provide the Supervisory Authority and the Registrar with a copy of each instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, together with the date of deposit thereof, of each declaration or withdrawal or amendment of a declaration and of each notification of denunciation, together with the date of notification thereof, so that the information contained therein is easily and fully available; and
- (d) perform such other functions customary for depositaries.]