

## THE INTERNATIONAL COSPAS-SARSAT PROGRAMME AGREEMENT

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## THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT:

NOTING the successful implementation of the COSPAS-SARSAT Search and Rescue Satellite System established under a Memorandum of Understanding among the Ministry of Merchant Marine of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America, the Department of National Defence of Canada and the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales of France which was signed on 5 October 1984 and came into effect on 8 July 1985;

DESIRING to strengthen the close international cooperation in this humanitarian endeavour;

AWARE of the efforts in the International Maritime Organization to establish a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, building on the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, done at London on 1 November 1974, on the Convention and Operating Agreement of the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), done at London on 3 September 1976, and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, done at Hamburg on 27 April 1979, as well as the responsibilities of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Telecommunication Union in their respective fields;

CONVINCED that a worldwide satellite system to provide alert and location services for maritime, aviation and terrestrial distress and safety is important for the efficient operation of search and rescue;

RECALLING the provisions 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, of 27 January 1967, and other multilateral agreements regarding the use of outer space to which they are Party;

RECOGNIZING that it is therefore desirable to operate the COSPAS-SARSAT system, in accordance with international law, so as to endeavour to provide long term alert and location services in support of search and rescue and access to the System to all States on a non-discriminatory basis, and free of charge for the end-user in distress,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS: