

# **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

## **Space Development Law**

Adopted by Decree No. 13 of the Supreme People's Assembly on April 1, Juche 102 (2013)

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### **Chapter 1: Basics of the Space Development Law**

#### **Article 1 (Mission of the Space Development Law)**

The Space Development Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea aims to strictly establish systems and order in space development, contribute to the development of the country's science, technology, and economy, improve the people's living standards, and strengthen national defense capabilities.

#### **Article 2 (Definitions)**

The definitions of terms in this law are as follows:

1. Space development includes all activities directly related to the exploration and utilization of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies. This includes the establishment of space development plans, the design, manufacture, launch, and operation of space objects, space science research, and technological development.
2. Space objects are objects designed and manufactured for launch into outer space. This does not include observation rockets and ballistic missiles that temporarily pass through outer space.
3. Space infrastructure includes facilities for launching space objects and ground equipment and facilities for managing and operating space objects, including measuring and controlling the characteristics of all flying objects launched into outer space.
4. Satellite observation data includes all data collected by satellites and transmitted to the ground, including space environment measurement data, observation data of the Earth and other celestial bodies, electronic reconnaissance data, and data obtained through processing and conversion.
5. Space accidents include malfunctions, crashes, collisions, explosions, etc., that occur during the launch and operation of space objects.

### **Article 3 (Basic Principles of Space Development)**

The state shall adhere to the principles of protecting national sovereignty and interests, strengthening the self-reliant economy, and enhancing self-defensive national defense capabilities in space development.

### **Article 4 (Safety Assurance Principle)**

The state shall ensure the safety of space object launches and operations based on advanced science and technology and international standards.

### **Article 5 (Investment in Space Development)**

The state shall continuously increase investment in the field of space development to accelerate space development and strengthen the material and technical foundation of the space science field.

### **Article 6 (Scope of Application)**

This law applies to institutions, enterprises, and organizations participating in space development and to foreigners participating in space development conducted within our country's territory. This law applies to space objects registered in our country regardless of their location. Activities related to space development shall follow this law unless otherwise specified by other regulations.

## **Chapter 2: Organization of Space Development Projects**

### **Article 7 (Status of the National Space Development Guidance Agency)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency represents the state in the field of space development.

### **Article 8 (Duties and Authority of the National Space Development Guidance Agency)**

The duties and authority of the National Space Development Guidance Agency are as follows:

1. Formulate the state's comprehensive space development plan.
2. Supervise and control all space development projects conducted within our country's territory.
3. Establish order related to research projects in the field of space science and technology.
4. Guide the construction of space infrastructure for space development.

5. Guide the design, manufacture, assembly, launch, and operation of space objects.
6. Conduct the reception, processing, and dissemination of satellite observation data.
7. Ensure the safety of space development.
8. Certify space development technologies.
9. Be responsible for and execute external projects related to space development.
10. Promote space development projects to strengthen national defense capabilities.
11. Perform other tasks entrusted by the state.

#### **Article 9 (Duties of Space Development Institutions)**

Space development institutions and enterprises shall scientifically and precisely manufacture space equipment, increase production capacity, and actively develop practical satellites such as communication satellites, weather satellites, and observation satellites, as well as their launch vehicles.

#### **Article 10 (Formulation and Approval of Space Development Prospects Plan)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall formulate a space development prospects plan reflecting the purpose and mission of space development, principles, national safety and interests, economic conditions, the state of space science and technology, and space infrastructure. The Supreme People's Assembly shall approve the space development prospects plan.

#### **Article 11 (Formulation and Execution of Space Development Plans)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall realistically formulate and faithfully execute phased, annual, and itemized plans to implement the approved space development prospects plan.

#### **Article 12 (Approval of Space Development)**

Only institutions, enterprises, and organizations approved by the National Space Development Guidance Agency can engage in space development. Approved institutions, enterprises, and organizations cannot transfer space development rights to third parties without approval.

#### **Article 13 (Cancellation of Space Development Approval)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency and relevant institutions can cancel space development approval for institutions, enterprises, and organizations from the perspective of national safety and interests.

#### **Article 14 (Space Science Research Projects)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall organize space science research projects nationwide. The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall assign space science research tasks to universities and research institutions through the central planning guidance agency and the central science and technology administration guidance agency and regularly grasp and summarize the execution status. Universities and research institutions assigned space science research tasks shall faithfully execute the tasks according to the schedule.

#### **Article 15 (Certification of Space Development Technologies)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall review, evaluate, and certify scientific and technological achievements made during the space development process. Institutions seeking scientific and technological review shall submit application documents to the National Space Development Guidance Agency.

#### **Article 16 (Design of Space Objects)**

The design of space objects shall be carried out by institutions designated by the National Space Development Guidance Agency or approved under Article 12 of this law. The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall review and approve the design of space objects.

#### **Article 17 (Manufacture and Assembly of Space Objects)**

The manufacture and assembly of space objects shall be carried out by specialized institutions designated by the National Space Development Guidance Agency, and the manufacture of cooperative products shall be carried out by institutions and enterprises approved by the National Space Development Guidance Agency. Relevant institutions and enterprises shall manufacture and assemble space objects according to design requirements.

#### **Article 18 (Technical Inspection of Space Objects)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall establish a technical inspection system for space objects and responsibly conduct technical inspections according to technical regulations and standards. Space objects that do not pass technical inspection cannot be launched.

## **Article 19 (Space Development for Strengthening National Defense Capabilities)**

Space development for strengthening national defense capabilities shall be conducted in consultation with the National Space Development Guidance Agency and relevant institutions.

## **Chapter 3: Launch, Registration, and Operation of Space Objects**

### **Article 20 (Application for Launch of Space Objects)**

Relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations intending to launch space objects shall submit launch application documents to the National Space Development Guidance Agency. The application documents shall include the purpose and use of the space object, its lifespan and usage period, the launch site and scheduled launch date, the technical specifications of the space object, and other documents required by the National Space Development Guidance Agency.

### **Article 21 (Approval of Space Object Launch)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall review and approve or reject the application documents. If necessary, it may require modifications to the application documents.

### **Article 22 (Cancellation of Launch Approval)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency may cancel launch approval in the following cases:

1. If the launch is delayed for more than one year without a valid reason from the scheduled launch date.
2. If the contents of the launch application documents are found to be false.
3. If technical defects are revealed during the inspection of the space object.
4. If it may harm national safety and interests.
5. If it may negatively affect the safety of neighboring countries.

### **Article 23 (Notification Related to Space Object Launch)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall notify relevant countries and international organizations in advance when launching space objects. In this case, necessary data may be provided according to international law and international practices.

### **Article 24 (Domestic Registration of Space Objects)**

Space objects shall be registered and have a mark proving that they belong to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The National Space Development Guidance Agency, as the space object registration agency of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, shall conduct domestic registration of space objects that have entered orbit after launch.

#### **Article 25 (Items to be Recorded in the Space Object Register)**

The following items shall be recorded in the space object register:

1. Name and registration number of the space object.
2. Launch institution.
3. Launch site and date.
4. Technical specifications of the space object.
5. General functions of the space object.
6. Other items required by the National Space Development Guidance Agency. The space object register shall be kept and managed by the National Space Development Guidance Agency.

#### **Article 26 (Ownership of Space Objects)**

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea owns registered space objects regardless of their location on the ground or in outer space.

#### **Article 27 (International Registration of Space Objects)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency shall register registered space objects with relevant international organizations through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### **Article 28 (Control of Space Objects)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency and relevant institutions shall observe and adjust satellites and other space objects in orbit to ensure the normal operation of space objects.

#### **Article 29 (Establishment of Safety Zones)**

To ensure the normal and stable operation of space objects, necessary safety zones may be established around space objects.

#### **Article 30 (Utilization of Satellite Observation Data)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency is responsible for the reception, processing, and dissemination of satellite observation data. Institutions that receive satellite observation data cannot transfer the data to other institutions or use it for other purposes without the approval of the National Space Development Guidance Agency.

#### **Article 31 (Allocation of Satellite Communication Frequencies)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency, in consultation with the National Radio Supervision Agency, allocates and adjusts technical indicators such as frequency bands and communication methods for institutions intending to use geostationary and other practical satellites. Institutions that receive technical indicators cannot change them without approval.

#### **Article 32 (Intellectual Property Rights)**

Intellectual property created by space objects registered in our country is considered to have been created within our country's territory and is protected by relevant legal norms.

#### **Article 33 (Investigation of Space Accidents)**

Investigations of accidents that occur during the space development process within our country's territory and efforts to address the aftermath are conducted under the guidance of the National Space Development Guidance Agency.

#### **Article 34 (Rescue of Astronauts)**

If astronauts make an emergency landing, are in distress, or have an accident within our country's territory or adjacent international waters, possible assistance will be provided, and the astronauts will be returned to the launching country.

#### **Article 35 (Return of Space Objects)**

If space objects from other countries crash or make an emergency landing within our country's territory, they will be returned to the launching country.

#### **Article 36 (Protection of the Space Environment)**

Relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations must fully consider the impact on the ground and space environment when launching and operating space objects.

#### **Article 37 (Production Assurance of Materials, Funds, and Cooperative Products)**

Relevant institutions, enterprises, and organizations must prioritize the production assurance of materials, funds, and cooperative products necessary for space development projects.

### **Article 38 (Training of Space Science and Technology Personnel)**

The central education guidance agency and relevant institutions must establish a system for training space science and technology personnel, strengthen research and education in the field of space science and technology, and continuously improve the technical level of competent scientists, engineers, and experts in the field of space development.

### **Article 39 (Space Science and Technology Information Projects)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency must collect, database, and actively disseminate advanced scientific and technological data necessary for space development, including space-related scientific and technological information. Institutions, enterprises, and organizations must provide space development-related scientific and technological data to the National Space Development Guidance Agency.

### **Article 40 (Conditions and Preferential Treatment for Space Developers)**

The Cabinet, the National Space Development Guidance Agency, and relevant institutions must fully guarantee the working and living conditions of space scientists and engineers, actively promote and preferentially treat space developers socially.

### **Article 41 (Space Infrastructure)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency and relevant institutions must timely and fully equip space infrastructure with facilities for launching space objects and ground equipment and facilities necessary for space activities, ensuring they are prospective and economically effective.

### **Article 42 (Realization of International Exchange and Cooperation)**

The National Space Development Guidance Agency and relevant institutions must respect international laws and order related to the peaceful development of space, and realize cooperation in the field of space development with international organizations and other countries based on the principles of respecting sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equality, and mutual benefit. Exchanges and cooperation with space-related international organizations and other countries' space agencies are conducted through the National Space Development Guidance Agency.

### **Article 43 (Countermeasures)**

In response to unfriendly acts by other countries that infringe on our country's space development rights and interests, appropriate countermeasures will be taken according to our country's countermeasures law.



## **Chapter 4: Guidance and Control of Space Development Projects**

### **Article 44 (Guidance of Space Development Projects)**

Unified guidance of space development projects in our country is conducted by the National Space Development Guidance Agency. The National Space Development Guidance Agency must establish a systematic guidance and management system for space development, comprehensively grasp and plan all projects related to space exploration and utilization, and conduct them prospectively and systematically.

### **Article 45 (Supervision and Control of Space Development Projects)**

Supervision and control of space development projects are conducted by the National Space Development Guidance Agency and relevant supervision and control agencies. The National Space Development Guidance Agency and relevant supervision and control agencies must strengthen supervision and control of space development projects within our country's territory to prevent negative phenomena.

### **Article 46 (Compensation for Damages)**

Institutions responsible for causing damage to institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens during the space development process must provide compensation. If institutions, enterprises, organizations, and citizens of our country suffer damage due to space objects from other countries, compensation will be sought through the National Space Development Guidance Agency and relevant institutions.

### **Article 47 (Warnings, Severe Warnings, Unpaid Labor, Labor Education, Demotion, Dismissal, Removal from Office)**

In the following cases, responsible persons will be given warnings, severe warnings, or punishments of unpaid labor for up to three months, labor education, demotion, dismissal, or removal from office:

1. If space science research plans are not met, adjusted without approval, or falsely reported.
2. If production plans for cooperative products related to space development, equipment, and material assurance plans necessary for space science research are not met or adjusted without approval.
3. If scientific and technological achievements in space science research are not properly reviewed or introduced in a timely manner.

4. If accidents occur due to failure to design, manufacture, assemble, inspect, launch, and operate space objects according to technical regulations, hindering space development projects.
5. If space science research-related facilities, including space object observation equipment, are damaged.
6. If space development and its results are used without the approval of relevant institutions.
7. If secrets related to space development are leaked during the design, manufacture, testing, and operation of space objects.
8. If labor, funds, materials, and equipment intended for space science research tasks are used for other projects. If the above acts are repeated, punishments of unpaid labor for more than three months, labor education, demotion, dismissal, or removal from office will be given.

#### **Article 48 (Criminal Responsibility)**

If acts violating this law constitute a crime, responsible persons will be held criminally responsible according to the relevant provisions of the criminal law.