

LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

on Space activities

In accordance with Clauses 10, 11, 13 and 23 of Part I of Article 94 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, this Law determines legal, economic, and organizational foundations of space activities, general requirements of implementing entrepreneurial activity in the space industry in the Republic of Azerbaijan, and regulates relations with national activities in outer space, including Earth orbits, the Moon and other celestial bodies and their orbits.

Chapter 1 General Provisions

Article 1. Main definitions

1.1. Main definitions used in this Law express the following meaning:

1.1.1. **space activity** – exploring and using outer space, including Earth orbits, the Moon and other celestial bodies and their orbits (hereinafter – the outer space) for technical, economic, defense, security, information, scientific, ecological, and other purposes, by means of space object, launching a space object into outer space, controlling, exploitation and returning it to the Earth or decommissioning;

1.1.2. **space industry** – organizing and delivering satellite services, designing, producing space objects and their components, conducting scientific research in the field of usage of space resources and technologies;

1.1.3. **national activity** – space activity carried out in the outer space by the subjects of space activity by means of space objects registered in the State Registry of space objects of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter – Registry);

1.1.4. **space object** – space apparatus (satellite, spacecraft), space vehicle, rocket carrier intended to be launched or launched into the outer space, as well as other equipment intended for the correct performance of space vehicles and space devices,;

1.1.5. **controlling space object** – set of tracking, telemetry and remote control operations performed in relation to a space object in order to navigate the flight;

1.1.6. **exploitation of space object** – using the space object as designated, as well as direct transfer of the technical capabilities of the space object to the use of other persons;

1.1.7. **space operator** – legal entities or state bodies (entities) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the national space operator, directly implementing launch of space object into the outer space, its control or exploitation (as well as decommissioning) and return to the Earth;

1.1.8. **subjects of space activity** – space operators, individuals or legal entities, state bodies (entities);

1.1.9. **national space operator** – the body (entity)¹ determined by relevant executive power body;

¹ The “Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azercosmos)” as part of the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

1.1.10. **foreign space operator** – foreign legal entity or foreign state entity carrying out space activity in accordance with Article 10.2 of this Law;

1.1.11. **satellite system for remote Earth observation** – at least one satellite implementing remote Earth observation, ground control center providing its control, a set of devices and equipment used for receiving, storing, processing or distributing (giving to other persons) raw data from a remote Earth observation satellite;

1.1.12. **remote Earth observation** – remote monitoring (sensing) of the Earth, as well as its atmosphere in order to get images or other information;

1.1.13. **ground control center** – receiving and transmitting station (if any), information technologies infrastructure, buildings intended for controlling a space object in the outer space;

1.1.14. **raw data** – information collected and transmitted from an observation sensor of remote Earth observation satellite;

1.1.15. **observation product** – images or another type of information created in result of processing of raw data;

1.1.16. **orbital position** – the geographic longitude of the center point of the boundaries designated for station-keeping a space object within a geostationary orbit over the Earth equator;

1.1.17. **satellite services** – a type of service delivered by means of satellites having telecommunication, navigation, meteorological, research, Earth observation and other missions.

1.2. Other definitions used in this Law express the meanings determined with the normative legal acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and international agreements, to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party.

Article 2. Legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on space activity

Legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on space activity consists of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the international agreements to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is party, as well 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” (hereinafter – the Treaty), this Law, and other normative legal acts.

Article 3. Scope of application of this Law

3.1. This Law applies to the subjects of space activity.

3.2. With respect to a space object within the airspace of the Republic of Azerbaijan the relevant laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan are applied.

3.3. Relations in the fields of space activity and space industry in the Alat Free Economic Zone are regulated in accordance with the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “on Alat Free Economic Zone”.

Article 4. Principles of space activity

4.1. Space activity is carried out based on the following principles:

4.1.1. using the outer space for the peaceful purposes;

4.1.2. safeguarding national interests;

4.1.3. efficient use of space resources;

4.1.4. state control over the national activities;

4.1.5. safety of space activity and space industry, reduction of impact from space debris to the environment.

Article 5. International cooperation

International cooperation in the fields of space activity and space industry, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on space activity, is carried out in order to strengthen the positions of suppliers of goods (works, services) based on space and satellite technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to expand application of such goods (works, services), and international exchange of experience and achievements in this field.

Chapter 2 State regulation of space activity

Article 6. Regulation of space activity

6.1. Regulation of space activity in the Republic of Azerbaijan is implemented in the following directions:

6.1.1. certification of goods (works, services) intended for space activity, processes related to them and production methods;

6.1.2. state registration of space objects;

6.1.3. obtaining and protecting orbital positions;

6.1.4. other directions of regulation of space activity arising from this Law.

6.2. In order to implement relevant works in its areas of activity, the national space operator is not required to acquire licenses and permits specified in the list approved by the body (entity)² determined by relevant executive power body.

Article 7. Certification of goods (works, services) intended for space activity, processes related to them and production methods;

Certification of goods (works, services) intended for space activity, processes related to them and production methods is carried out in the cases and in the manner determined by the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan “on Telecommunications”, “on Accreditation in the field of conformity assessment” and “on Technical regulation”.

Article 8. State registration of space objects

8.1. The formation, restriction (encumbrance), transfer and termination of title and other property rights of subjects of space activity over space objects should be registered in the Registry in the manner determined by the body (entity)³ determined by the relevant executive power body. Procedure for keeping the Register is determined by the body (entity)⁴ determined by the relevant executive power body.

8.2. It is permitted to transfer the title to a space object in the outer space in accordance with the requirements of this Law, privatize the state-owned space objects in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “on Privatization of State Property”, title to space objects that have become unusable and are fully insured against the loss may be signed to insurers in exchange for insurance proceeds paid under the insurance contract.

8.3. Title to the space object found in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan is determined in accordance with the Treaty and civil legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

² The Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

³ The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

⁴ The Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

8.4. In the manner specified in the Treaty, the national space operator submits information to the UNO regarding the space objects registered in the Registry, also deorbiting such space objects.

Article 9. Obtaining and protecting orbital positions

9.1. Orbital positions and radio frequencies associated with them that are allocated, or to be allocated to the Republic of Azerbaijan belong to the state and are allocated for the use of the space operators in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan “on Licenses and permits” and “on Telecommunications”.

9.2. The body (entity)⁵ determined by the relevant executive power body and space operator jointly coordinate orbital positions, radio frequencies associated with them, as well as satellite networks within the procedures defined with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “on Approval of the Radiocommunication Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union and the Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference”.

Article 10. Subjects of space activity

10.1. Individuals, and legal entities, state bodies (entities) implement the space activity by means of a space operator.

10.2. It is allowed to involve a foreign space operator in the implementation of space activities based on the contract entered with a space operator.

10.3. The subjects of the space activity mentioned in Article 10.1 of this Law have the rights to rent, hire, and use free of charge the space objects of the international organizations, foreign states and other foreign individuals for the purposes of this Law.

10.4. Flight of a space object registered in the Registry in the airspace of other state is regulated by the Treaty and other international agreements, to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party.

Chapter 3

Economic particularities of space activity and space industry

Article 11. Investment and partnership in the fields of space activity and space industry

Investment, and public-private partnership in the fields of space activity and space industry are carried out according to the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan “on Investment activity” and “on Public-private partnership” respectively.

Article 12. Risk of damage to third parties by a space object

12.1. The amount of insurance or other financial guarantee of the risk of damage by the space object to third parties is used to pay the claims made on the basis of the Treaty.

12.2. The conditions of insurance certificate for the risk of damage to third parties by the space object is determined in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on space activity.

12.3. The Space operators and holders of title to space objects must comply with the terms of the insurance certificate for the risk of damage to third parties by the space object.

⁵ The Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

12.4. If no other agreement is provided between the parties, the risk of the space object causing damage to third parties (third party liability insurance) is insured at the expense of the holder of title to a space object or financial security is obtained instead of insurance.

Chapter 4

Designation of ground space infrastructure and space objects

Article 13. Ground space infrastructure

13.1. Ground space infrastructure includes the following:

13.1.1. ground control centers of space objects;

13.1.2. earth stations providing telecommunication with a space object in the outer space;

13.1.3. space rocket complexes and means, take-off and landing ranges and platforms of space objects, space flight ground control stations;

13.1.4. space flights training centers;

13.1.5. space object storage areas and test stations;

13.1.6. other ground space infrastructure devices and means necessary for space activity.

13.2. In order to create the necessary conditions for the exploitation of ground space infrastructure, protection zones with a special legal regime are created around them in accordance with the Land Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Article 14. Designation of space objects

The space objects with telecommunication, remote observation, navigation and other missions are brought into use in the outer space in accordance with the requirements of this Law.

Article 15. Telecommunication satellite networks

15.1. Satellite communication, telecommunication services, high-speed satellite internet service, radio and television broadcasting, data transmission and other telecommunication satellite services are provided domestically and abroad through telecommunication satellites.

15.2. The national space operator organizes satellite systems and telecommunication satellite networks within the country and abroad by means of telecommunication satellites of the Republic of Azerbaijan and foreign countries.

Article 16. Satellite system for remote Earth observation

16.1. Through a satellite system for remote Earth observation, images and other information are obtained for the purpose of collecting information about the structure of the Earth surface and the variability of natural phenomena, anthropogenic factors, natural resources, the environment, as well as solving scientific, economic, ecological, and defense issues.

16.2. By means of the earth station in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the national space operator implements direct reception of the raw data, having the indicators approved by the body (entity)⁶ determined by the relevant executive power body, from the foreign space object exploited by the foreign space operator (its authorized foreign legal person) with no branch, nor representative office in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

⁶ The Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Article 17. Space navigation system

17.1. It is allowed to use the satellites of foreign states for organizing space navigation system.

17.2. Users of space navigation systems are provided with coordinate-time parameters through a space navigation system consisting of satellites and ground space infrastructure.

Chapter 5

Safety in the space activity and space industry

Article 18. Ensuring safety in the fields of space activity and space industry

18.1. While implementing any activity in the fields of space activity and space industry in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the actions shall be taken as stipulated respectively in the laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan “on Protection of the environment”, “on Evaluating impact to the environment”, “on Ecology safety” and “on Technical safety” in order to protect environment, comply with environmental and technical safety requirements.

18.2. Where space objects and their parts are found in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, temporary quarantine is permitted in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on space activities.

18.3. Measures are taken by the body (entity)⁷ determined by the relevant executive power body for the rescue of crew of the manned space object crashed in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as temporary quarantine is applied at the place of crash in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on space activity.

18.4. If the space operator cannot control the space object registered in the Registry, instead of it, the national space operator will control the space object for the space flight safety under the Treaty. For this case, the holder of title to the space object registered in the Registry, should provide the national space operator with the capability to control the space object temporarily.

Article 19. Decommissioning space object

19.1. A space object in the outer space is decommissioned in accordance with this Law, in the manner and under the conditions established by the international agreements, to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party, as well as when its useful service life is over, when control over it is lost, when it is destroyed due to the impact of a natural phenomenon or an accident.

19.2. The holder of title to the space object registered in the Registry should immediately provide written information to the national space operator about decommissioning the space object in order to inform the UNO in the manner provided by the Treaty.

Article 20. Supervision over the space activity

20.1. The body (entity)⁸, determined by the relevant executive power body, supervises over controlling the space objects registered in the Registry, owned according to this Law by the subjects of the space activity. The supervision over

⁷ The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

⁸ The Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

controlling such space objects is carried out in the manner determined by the body (entity)⁹ determined by the relevant executive power body.

20.2. Coordinating national activity in the outer space and technical control of such activity is carried out by the national space operator.

20.3. A citizen or legal person of the Republic of Azerbaijan must notify the national space operator in writing in advance before acquiring property rights over a space object outside the Republic of Azerbaijan.

20.4. A citizen or legal person of the Republic of Azerbaijan having ordered the production of a space object outside the Republic of Azerbaijan must inform the national space operator in writing about this within 30 (thirty) days from the moment of placing the order.

Article 21. Data protection

State secret, commercial secret and confidential data in the fields of space activity and space industry are protected in accordance with the law and international agreements, to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party.

Chapter 2 Final Provisions

Article 22. Dispute Resolution

Disputes arising in the fields of space activity and space industry are resolved in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on space activity.

Article 23. Liability for violation of this Law

Persons who are guilty of violating the requirements of this Law are liable in the cases provided by law.

Article 24. Enactment of this Law

This Law enters into force 60 days after its publication.

**Ilham ALIYEV,
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Baku city, June 24, 2023
№ 927-VIQ

⁹ The Cabinet of the Ministries of the Republic of Azerbaijan.