

**Case Concerning Registration and
Damages Involving Objects Manufactured in Space
Moot Court 2022 Selection Process – University of Vienna**

1. **Candidia** and **Xenovia** are two small nations with growing space sector activities, using many new technologies, such as 3-D printers and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to manufacture space objects in outer space.
2. **Candidia's** "Valerian 806" satellite is part of a mega-satellite constellation. It was manufactured in space, and deployed to low Earth orbit from the "Pacem" space station. Components of Pacem were launched from Safrandia, Xenovia, Candidia, and other nations, but none of these components was individually registered by any launch authority. Valerian's owners defaulted on payments due. The creditor contracted for the Fenix-3 satellite, registered in **Xenovia**, to take possession of Valerian 806 and to relocate it to another orbit.
3. In the process of taking possession, both the Valerian 806 and Fenix-3 satellites were destroyed in an explosion. Most of the fragments burned up in the atmosphere but some pieces survived atmospheric re-entry. Tragically, one large fragment of the Fenix-3 satellite struck a cargo plane of the **Candidia** military in flight, which crashed into the ocean killing all nine persons on board.
4. The parties continued to discuss the issues through diplomatic channels, but were unable to reach a resolution. They both have accepted the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and have decided to submit the matter to the ICJ on this Agreed Statement of Facts. There are no issues of jurisdiction before the Court.
5. On the basis of the foregoing Agreed Statement of Facts, **Candidia** requests the Court to adjudge and declare:
 - a. *That **Xenovia** violated international law by interfering with Valerian 806 and is liable for the loss of the aircraft, and*

*b. That **Candidia** acted in accordance with international law and is not liable for the loss of Fenix-3.*

6. **Xenovia** and **Candidia** are parties to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the 1968 Return and Rescue Agreement. **Xenovia** is also a party to the 1972 Liability Convention and the 1976 Registration Convention. Both have ratified the Cape Town Convention and the Protocol to Matters Specific to Space Assets, and, since 2028, have been members of UNCOPUOS.