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NATURAL DISASTERS: THE DUTY TO WARN

**Abstract**

Space technologies, specifically remote sensing and telecommunications, play an essential role in the field of natural disaster prevention and management. Nevertheless it is not clear whether a State has the duty to transmit to States affected by natural disasters, or likely to be affected by impending natural disasters, the relevant data in its possession. This study aims to clarify if there is an international duty to warn in case of natural disasters, taking the relevant international instruments into consideration. Once demonstrated the existence of the duty of early warning, the research focuses on the remote sensing regime, analyzing how the restrictions to sensed data diffusion, usually foreseen by international agreements and by national space legislations, even the recently adopted ones, can interact with such duty.