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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION'S OPTIONAL RULES  
FOR ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES RELATING TO OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

**Abstract**

This paper analyzes the provisions of the international conventions and the UN General Assembly resolutions on space dispute settlement, and introduces the existing problems, especially in the absence of legal proceedings the related adjudications lack binding force and it is powerless to private parties and international organizations. The paper makes a comment on proposals of some international organizations and scholars about the establishment of international space court and arbitral tribunal. It discusses the recent developments in this regard, namely, the significance and role of the International Permanent Court of Arbitration's Optional Rules for Arbitration of Disputes Relating to Outer Space Activities adopted in 2011. By the Optional Rules, it establishes a new set of legal methods to resolve international disputes relating to space activities, increases legally binding force of the related awards, and is also applied to private parties and international organizations as they become the parties.