

SPACE DEBRIS SYMPOSIUM (A6)

Political, legal, Institutional and Economic Aspects of Space Debris Mitigation and Removal (8)

Author: Mr. OLUSOJI NESTER JOHN

National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Nigeria, nestero2003@yahoo.co.uk

LEGAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF SPACE DEBRIS MITIGATION AND REMOVAL – A
CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Abstract

Man's activities in space since 1957 have left outer space with millions of junks resulting from collision, explosion and other space exploration activities. These junks serve as threat to astronauts and spacecraft in space. Today, despite all the efforts that have been made to solve the problem of space debris, the security and safety of space environment is still a serious issue. This work focuses on a critical analysis of the legal and political aspects of space debris mitigation and removal. It discusses briefly the space debris environment and the role of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPOUS) and European Space Agency (ESA) in Space debris mitigation and removal. It gives in detail a critical analysis of Outer Space Treaty, Liability Convention, Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the European Code of Conduct as they relate to space debris, and the political situation surrounding them. It concludes with some recommendations.