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CHINA AND SPACE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: AN EVALUATION FROM AN
INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

The outer space environment is significant deteriorating due to increasing amount of space debris, particularly debris generated by the intentional destruction of satellites. China now ranks among the world's most advanced countries in some important fields of space technologies and the impact of its space activities on space environment has become a concern, especially since the 2007 Anti-Satellite Weapon test. China's government is aware of the importance of the safe and sustainable access to and use of outer space, particularly some near-earth orbits, and emphasizes that the issue of space debris is a big challenge to further expansion of space activities. During recent years, China has accelerated the process of translating international agreements into domestic policy and law, mainly by the national action plans on space debris initiated in 2000 and the Provisional Regulation on Mitigation and Management of Space Debris, which entered into force in 2010. This article aims at evaluating whether China has fulfilled its international obligations in space environment protection and the inadequacy of relevant international legal regime.