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EVOLUTION FROM POLICY TOWARDS LAW: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE
PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Abstract

This paper is designed to do research on the evolution of International Cooperation Policy in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (ICPPUOS, hereinafter “PUOS” as abbr. for “the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space”) in comparative approach and historical perspective. Its purpose is to demonstrate the influence of ICPPUOS on the formation of International Cooperation Law in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (ICLPUOS) and the National International Cooperation Policy of China in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (NICPCPUOS). The paper is designed to be composed of three parts besides its introduction and conclusion. The first part is designed to elaborate the process of gradual development of ICPPUOS. The second part is designed to discuss how ICPPUOS influences the formation of the legal principles, norms and requirements of international cooperation in PUOS. The third part is designed to introduce the guiding principles, fundamental policies of NICPCPUOS and the characteristics of China’s bilateral agreements of international cooperation in PUOS, and explain their foundations and sources of International Space Law (ISL) and International Space Policy (ISP). The conclusion will be enunciated that because of the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law in relation with the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, there should have more ICPPUOS transformed into guiding legal principles on the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space so as to promote the development of ISL and guide the practice of States in international cooperation in PUOS.