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Assuring a Safe, Secure, and Sustainable Space Environment for Space Activities (4)

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REACHING A SAFE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE SPACE ENVIRONMENT: AN ANALYSIS OF
THE ROLE OF THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA

Abstract

The launch of Sputnik 1 in 1957 marked the beginning of a new scene in Earth and Space, and a new era in the life of man. Nations' first launches, though, were characterized by politics of supremacy and military might, it was later realized that their activities in space were not only for "politics" but that they provide wealth of benefit for humans on Earth. This wealth of benefit, which humanity has come to depend on, is today under threat because of the tremendous increase in space capabilities and activities the world is witnessing. Technical, legal, policy and political means have been developed by the international community to keep the space environment safe, secure and sustainable. This work focuses on the role Africa as a continent and some selected space-faring countries are playing in making sure a safe, secure and sustainable space environment is reached. It gives a synopsis of the technical, legal, policy and political means developed through international efforts. Efforts of Africa continent therein are discussed using the space policies, legislations and regulatory instruments of some selected countries like Nigeria, South Africa, Algeria etc. The work then concludes with some recommendations.