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INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF RECENT NEO RESPONSE STRATEGIES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Abstract

In 2008, the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) and its international Panel on Asteroid Threat Mitigation prepared a program for action for the United Nations in relation the threat to the Earth from asteroids and comets. The program includes descriptions of three specific functions that the U.N. could develop. This includes specific groups dedicated to information gathering and mission planning that would report to an oversight group, which in turn, would submit recommendations to the Security Council for appropriate action. These recommendations will be presented to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS). This paper will examine these most recent recommendations and determine potential issues and improvements to ASE's recommendations. These specific recommendations given by the ASE are a positive first step in discussing specific ways the United Nations can be involved in coordinating a global response to the NEO threat.