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FUTURE SPACE LAW: FROM RECOMMENDATION TO LEGISLATION

**Abstract**

UN space treaties were drafted in the early ages of space exploration. This legal framework sets general principles for space activities. However, with the development of space technology, the space treaties seem out of date because new activities may not be covered by current legal regime and some ambiguous definitions cause confusion. Some people propose new international treaties or amendment of existing treaties in order to re-define certain terms and principles. But it is less possible that such a treaty or an amendment will come out in near future due to the complicated legislating process. In fact, some instruments that are not legally binding, such as resolutions and guidelines, also play an important role in space activities. For example, the space debris mitigations has adopted by a number of countries in their national legislaiton. Such guidelines can promote the development of international custom and finally contribute to new national and international legislation.