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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SPACE LAW: AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION
AS CASE STUDY**Abstract**

One basic principle of Public International Law applicable to space activities is that of cooperation of States. Cooperation plays an exceptionally important role in research and use of outer space. Therefore, cooperation of States in the peaceful study and use of outer space is one of the basic principles of International space law. The Outer Space Treaty in its preamble refers to the wish of the States to promote broad international cooperation in the field of study and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes such as States assisting and encouraging international cooperation in scientific research; the development of international cooperation and mutual understanding; and signatory States being guided by the principle of cooperation and mutual assistance. An active role in the development of international cooperation in space research is played by the United Nations, a number of specialized institutions and international inter-governmental agencies. Agreement on the International Space Station is an example of the on-going developments and progress in the context of international intergovernmental agreements on space cooperation and space activities. This work discusses the legal foundation of the International Space Station which is built on three levels of international co-operation agreements: The International Space Station Intergovernmental Agreement which establishes 'a long term international co-operative frame-work on the basis of genuine partnership; four Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs); and various bilateral Implementing Arrangements between the space agencies have been established to implement the Memoranda of Understandings. It further talks about the obligations and rights (contractual or otherwise) which are established by the Agreement. The work finds that the Agreement is a welcome development in the area of cooperation in space activities.