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LESSONS FROM CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES TO SPACE SECURITY

Abstract

While the application of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) to outer space activities was considered by the Grope of Governmental Experts (GGE) resulting in the UN Report of 1993, no legal instrument reached any agreement for space security. With the increasing number of intentional/unintentional destruction of space object, the need for transparency in outer space has led the international space community to the endorsement of UN resolution of “Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities” in 2005. Although CBMs and TCBMs serve to restrict military uses of outer space, it is worth learning lessons from Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (hereinafter: CSBMs).

The concept of CSBMs was first developed in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (current Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe: OSCE) by the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which is not a treaty but a politically binding agreement. With the aim of preventing a surprise attack by keeping inter-State military balance arrangements under political coordination, CSBMs prioritize non-legally-binding but substantial approaches to the goal of collective security by providing effective monitoring mechanisms.

Learning lessons from CSBMs’ experience, applied to regional security in Europe and Middle East, the author aims to outline monitoring mechanisms that could be applied to space security for maintaining the effectiveness of TCBMs.