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CURRENT STATUS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY PRINCIPLE IN
THE 1986 UN PRINCIPLES ON REMOTE SENSING

Abstract

The theme of this paper is to explore the international law on remote sensing activities. Considering the rules and principles of remote sensing activities, so-called non-discriminatory principle is essential; the sensed States shall have access to the primary data, the processed data and the available analysed information “on a non-discriminatory basis and on reasonable cost terms.” This principle is stipulated in the 1986 UN Principles on Remote Sensing and has been influencing laws and policies of nations worldwide. Obviously the major objective of the non-discriminatory principle is to protect and to promote the sensed States’ rights and interests. However, according to recent remote sensing laws and policies, the purpose and objective of non-discriminatory principle seem to be changed. In this paper the purpose and objective of non-discriminatory principle in the 1986 UN Principles are compared with those in today’s remote sensing laws and policies. The domestic legislation and policies of spacefaring nations and the remote sensing data exchange/sharing rules and principles of international organizations are enumerated, and the current status and recent developments of non-discriminatory principle are pointed out. In conclusion, this paper indicates the changing objective of non-discriminatory principle from the sensed State’s rights and interests to the public interests. It is based on a part of Master’s Thesis of the present author.