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LTS 2.0—APPROACHING SOLUTIONS TO NEW CHALLENGES OR BECOMING A POLITICAL
ARENA IN THE FIELD OF OUTER SPACE?

Abstract

The Long-term sustainability of outer space activities (LTS) has been the most influential agenda ever since its first official consultation in 2010. Admittedly, with a wide coverage, the adopted preamble and 21 guidelines of LTS play an indispensable role in shaping the criteria, regulations as well as policies in diverse aspects of space activities. But its essence as soft law and its voluntary implementation dooms that this agenda would confront with various difficulties. The recent LTS 2.0 consultation displayed a clear picture. States diverges on the implementation of adopted LTS guidelines and whether to generate news guidelines for the emerged new challenges that do not adequately fit within the existing guidelines. Searching for the effective methods to redefine the status of LTS guideline as well as mitigating the differential needs of states becomes the core issues. As member of Chinese delegations these years, I would focus on the controversies during the past sessions and put forward my own views on whether LTS 2.0 is approaching solutions to new challenges or becoming a political arena in the field of outer space solutions based on that. The paper aims to breakthrough LTS's present dilemma and finds a way forward.