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The relationship of international humanitarian law and territorial sovereignty with the legal regulation of outer space (2)

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EXTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL LAW PRINCIPLE OF GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS TO OUTER SPACE FADAHUNSI-BANJO MOTOLANI DEBORAH

Abstract

At inception of Mankind's activity in Space, the essentiality of maintaining peaceful demeanor in all activities to avoid extending war zones from earth to space was a major concern. This led to the creation of the Committee on peaceful uses of Outer Space, International Space Law Treaties, principles, and codes of conduct. It is important that space activities be conducted in accordance with International Law, International Space Law and the principle of peaceful purpose. This paper espouses the frontier of the concept of who is your neighbor in space, obligations of states to each other as neighbors hinged on ownership of objects launched into Outer space, and brings to fore consequences of non-conformity to such obligations. This paper further seeks to discuss the International law Principle of good neighborliness, how it has affected activities of States on earth positively, and how such can be extended to outer space putting into consideration its res communis nature and non-appropriation principle as contained in the Outer Space Treaty. An attempt is further discuss Whether such application of good neighborliness principle, can proffer solutions on issues regarding space debris, militarization in space, to foster continuous cooperation in Outer Space. In conclusion the paper emphasizes the importance of a peaceful outer space as not only an obligation to all states but a necessity to ensure a sustainable space environment.