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GLOBAL SPACE GOVERNANCE FOR ENSURING RESPONSIBLE USE OF OUTER SPACE, ITS
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY: LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

Abstract

The paper will be focused on the dominant legal actions taken worldwide, more specifically at the regional and international level, towards responsible and secure use of outer space and ensuring of its sustainability. For this purpose the sufficiency of applicable legally binding norms elaborated at the beginning of space era and extent of complementarity of the pertinent soft law provisions will be analyzed. It will also envisage legal grounds for regulating emerging space threats and a shaped framework for measures taken at all stages of space activities towards achieving of aforementioned objectives. The emphasis will be made on legal initiatives to manage the risks posed by dangerous space debris, nuclear power source applications in outer space, destructive collisions, the crowding of satellites, the growing saturation of the radio-frequency spectrum, etc. In this line, the paper will provide a comprehensive overview of the legal scope for such topical concepts as “space situational awareness”, “space traffic management” and “active debris removal”. Finally, the role of international cooperation through transparency and confidence-building measures designed to enhance coordinated actions in the context of concepts’ proper implementation will be examined.