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Regional cooperation in space: policies, governance and legal tools (1)

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SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SPACE FOR FUTURE SPACE ACTORS

**Abstract**

This report aims to assess the sustainability of space predicament. Space debris is a threat to all space assets. Lack of commitment and collaboration to actively remove debris endangers active objects (e.g. Satellites, Stations, etc.). The United Nations Guidelines on Space Debris Mitigation partially address the issues, while they help reducing the pace of growth, it does not remediate the debris already located in space. Maneuvering is currently the only defense against it, and experts expect a steep growth of debris in the coming years.

This report takes a look at the socio-political aspects of space debris, at the challenges and incentives for its mitigation and remediation. It also takes a look at its economic implications. It proposes how regional cooperation in developing countries could enable a path for solving the dispute on how to move forward and ultimately to implement binding laws to achieve a sustainable space environment for all. Furthermore, it proposes a framework for collaboration and funding of the research development needed in order to have a clean space.