

59th IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)  
Current Developments in Space Law with Particular Consideration for Latin America (5)

Author: Prof. CARLOS GABRIEL ARGUELLES ARREDONDO  
Mexico

SPACE LAW AS A SOURCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**Abstract**

In the society when a phenomenon that has consequences on human life occurs, invariably starts to become the subject of legislation. Indeed, the term called International Law of Outer Space or inter-planetary Law appears. This law arises in the second half of the twentieth century as a branch of Public International Law, and is the first that extends beyond Earth. After the launch of Sputnik I in 1957, the international community established that human activities in space would be subject to legal regulation by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) as a new International Law in the form of conventions on the use of cosmic space under the control of the organization, exclusively for peaceful purposes. The Law of Outer Space is a principle that the sovereign right of states to airspace do not extends into outer space, and in that area the *res communis omnis universi*, common to all mankind thing applies. The aim of this study is to observe and understand how Space Law has served as a source of cooperation among space-faring nations and also that such activity is for the benefit of humanity. The launch of Space Law made specifically codify international agreements and treaties in the different activities that States develop in space. Some of these treaties and agreements that will be analyzed in this study are: Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the Agreement on the Rescue and Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space. With the analysis of these legal instruments seeks to contribute to the knowledge of space science and technology for these scientific areas will be understood in an interdependent, globalized and regionalized world.