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SPACE PROTECTION: HOW CHANGING PERCEPTIONS COULD AFFECT THE LONG-TERM
SUSTAINABILITY OF SPACE

Abstract

The space domain is changing. Formerly primarily accessed by a limited number of nation-states, access to and use of space has become more democratic. It also has shifted to encompass more commercial actors, who historically have not been included in security-related discussions. It also continues to be interwoven into everyday lives: national security, economic infrastructure, and the average citizen have all increased their dependence on space assets.

With this reliance on space capabilities comes a new concern about their resiliency. Some countries, like the United States, are shifting their focus away from the deterrence model to protect their space assets and instead are looking at more active defenses. This paper will examine the changing discussion as to what resiliency means for space assets, look at how the international approach to emerging threats has largely been inadequate to quell concerns to date, and discuss possible ways forward, with a heavy focus on the role norms of behavior can play in enhancing space stability and sustainability.