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POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CHARTER ON SPACE AND MAJOR DISASTERS TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Abstract

This paper aims to provide an overview of the current framework of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, its institutional set-up, access and activation conditions, as well as the conditions according to which relevant data and information products are provided to the authorities or other subjects who request them. It will then turn to the discussion of the notion of humanitarian crisis, as well as relevant international law framework applicable to humanitarian crisis relief activities.

Taken into account the nature of the Charter and the notion of humanitarian crisis, the paper will assess its possible applicability to the latter. In particular, based on the wording of the Charter itself, as well as the analysis of the nature or basis of its various activations, the paper will assess the possibility and potential of a wider interpretation of the term “crisis” to enlarge the grounds on which the Charter can be activated.