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LEGALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE ACTIVITIES IN CHINA

Abstract

This presentation will feature the importance and efforts towards legalizing sustainable development of space activities in China. In particular, it will focus on two instruments: one is the White Paper on Space Activities in China, the other is an ongoing work on the draft of national space law in China.

China has issued a White Paper on space activities on December 27, 2016. In this White Paper, it has addressed the issue of sustainable development four times: the first is mentioned in the principle of open development, which states China's engagement of progress of space industry as a whole and its long-term sustainable development. The second is addressed in the ninth major task for the next five years: space science. China aims at establishing space science satellites featuring sustainable development. Third, China emphasizes that it formulates policies and measures for sustainable development. In specific and for a fourth time, China ensures government investment in this area will be regulated and sustainable.

Simultaneously, China has finished drafting the first national space law, and aims to report the draft to the State Council in 2017. The plan is to pass the national space law in 2020. Even though it has not yet called for public comments for the draft national space law, it will address the issue of sustainable development in line with the White Paper in 2016. In the White Paper, China has also addressed the efforts of acceleration of legalizing space industry, which includes regulations on space data and management, export of astronautic products and technologies, as well as an active participation in international space law.