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Space law at Unispace III+ 50: consequences and future perspectives (4)

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SPACE IS ESSENTIAL IN OUR TIME

Abstract

International cooperation is the key to the strongest peace in the world, to really constructive relations and the political, economic, cultural and humanistic development among all countries, all peoples and all mankind. There is an "extraordinary danger of the current moment," the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists said on January 25, 2018, when it decided to move the hand of the iconic Doomsday Clock to 2 minutes to midnight. The last time the symbolic Clock was this close to midnight was in 1953, at the height of the First Cold War. Now, 65 years later, we are in a Second Cold War, which propels a new and millionaire arms race into space, preparing a space war of inestimable consequences. The world community is "seriously concerned" about this concrete possibility, that can result in a limitless global collapse. The UN General Assembly Resolution 72-77, of December 7, 2017, makes an appeal "to all States Members, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to preventing an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes"... This resolution also "requests the Committee [The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space – UNCOPUOS] to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. . ." In its point of view, "the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end." In this way, can the international space cooperation of today be carried out really and effectively "on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis," as proposed the Declaration on International Cooperation (General Assembly Resolution 51/122, of December 13, 1996? Is it possible to ensure today "an equitable situation" on "a mutually acceptable basis" between developed and developing nations, whose distance increases more and more, mainly in military affairs? The present paper aims to discuss this and others similar issues.