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The relationship between space law and cyberlaw, and other recent developments in space law (5)

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CYBER SECURITY FOR SPACE ASSETS: LEGAL PROBLEMS AND THE ROLE EXPECTED OF  
AFRICA

**Abstract**

African countries, like other countries of the world, have invested billions of dollars in space assets. Apart from the huge investment, these countries rely heavily on space for economic development, security and sovereignty, and other areas of life. The countries form part of the huge consumers of space products and services. Now, the space assets that provide these services are vulnerable to cyber-attack – they can be destroyed, used for financial gains by the attacker or for terror motives, and so on. The cost of these attack are necessarily borne by the government of those countries, their citizens (who are consumers), and the private entities operating within those countries. Today, the legal frameworks that exist in the area are on a State-by-State basis, and seems not to have provided any solution to the problem. This work discusses the problem of cyber-attacks on space assets and the implications on Africa. It examines the legal problems therein inherent. It highlights the role expected of Africa in facilitating a comprehensive international convention on cyber security for space assets.