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EMERGING ECONOMIES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPACE ACTIVITIES AND LEGISLATION

Abstract

Most if not all space activities require the use of the radio frequency spectrum (RFS); the RFS is essential for satellite communications and scientific probes. Countries with advanced industries in the space sector obviously have more developed legislation than States that only aspire to participate in space activities. Even these, however, regulate space activities by which they are directly affected, primarily through their adherence to the International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations (ITU-RR) and policies embedded in the space treaties. Thus, it can be said that most countries have some basic national legislation related to space activities. Some emerging economies have changed the focus of their activities, from wanting to acquire a satellite for communications, to obtaining a remote-sensing /earth observation satellite. Regardless of the change in focus, they face similar issues: budgetary and personnel constraints, as well as policies of industrialized countries regarding transfer of technology. Despite these challenges, less developed countries have contributed to the expansion of space activities and their regulation, at the national and international level. They participate in ITU Study Groups, and in the UN COPUOS' sessions, bringing a different perspective to the deliberations of these entities. This paper will provide an overview of some of the contributions of emerging economies to space law and space activities, while keeping in mind limitations they continue facing.