

48th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –
The Next Steps (A4)
SETI 2: SETI and Society (2)

Author: Mr. Mclee Kerolle
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), United States, mfkerolle@gmail.com

ASTROPOLITICS AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF BELONGING TO AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL
POLITY

Abstract

Under the premise that advanced technological extraterrestrial civilizations have been discovered, this paper will address the political implications regarding further discovery that Earth belongs to an extraterrestrial polity with several hundred extraterrestrial civilizations. The larger political implications of such a discovery must be discussed and analyzed to the extent possible because despite humanity's burgeoning effort to become a multi-planetary species such discussion is not commonplace in the community of international relations.

The introduction of this paper explains two presumptions this paper takes liberty with in order to present a thorough analysis regarding the political implications of belonging to an extraterrestrial polity. The first presumption deals with the anthropocentric nature of how the politics of outer space, astropolitics, functions in an extraterrestrial community. This section briefly addresses the philosophical and legal realities such as, *de lege lata* and *de lege ferenda*, that favor an anthropocentric view of how the universe is governed. The second presumption is that extraterrestrial civilizations more technologically advanced than humanity are likely to be more culturally and ethically advanced, and as a result would not harm human civilization.

The first section of analysis begins with a discussion regarding whether the five main space treaties of the United Nations are consistent with what is the most famous post-detection policy, the First SETI protocol of 1989. While contact with extraterrestrial civilizations is not mentioned in any of the five main space treaties, Article IX and Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty are the most congruent with the First SETI protocol because they are guided by the principles of international co-operation, mutual assistance, and due regard.

The second section of this analysis discusses the global impact that the discovery of belonging to an interstellar polity will have on space law. This section continues to analyze the First SETI protocol of 1989 and looks for a possible role for establishing a permanent SETI presence in the United Nations while calling for the UN to formally adopt a post-detection policy. To conclude, this paper finds that what could result in the collaboration of the principles and norms that govern relations between the international community for the purpose of co-existing with extraterrestrial civilizations in the universe is a new dimension to the present body of outer space law that could be beneficial to the international community on the micro and macro level in terms of world peace.