

International Cooperation for Space Exploration (1)
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THE INTERNATIONAL ORDERS IN THE FOURTH TERRITORY: THE INFLUENCE OF NEW
OPPORTUNITIES IN OUTER SPACE ON GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS AND SPACE LAW- IMPACTS
ON SDG2030

Abstract

The “hard” system of treaties of outer space is being marked as a hindrance for future space activities. The perception is that initiatives in outer space beyond the Earth’s orbit are both feasible and likely profitable, among them space mining, the establishment of permanent bases in celestial objects and the “territorial extension” of the states. This obstacle, apparently, has no solution in the current mandatory space law, however the answer could rely in more pragmatic governance systems, aimed to solve specific issues and matters, in which the idea of “legal / illegal” loses operational relevance. The access to these mechanisms is strongly dependent on international orders of multilateralism and cooperation, which today seem to coexist with orders in which some hegemonic states can display uni and bilateral attitudes without consequences, given the legal gaps that remain in the outer space law body and the absence of validated mechanisms for space law enforcement. In this context, plenty of pending issues and edges, the contribution of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 agenda with regard to the space faces the challenge of usefully mapping space achievements into planetary contribution. As an additional yet huge, open challenge, Space2030 will need to define the physical boundaries of its actions, likely jumping from Earth, to near outer space, Moon and closest space objects -namely, Mars and Asteroid Belt-