

International Cooperation for Space Exploration (1)  
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT ON LEGALLY NON-BINDING INSTRUMENTS TO FOSTER  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION

**Abstract**

Space activities have flourished during the last years through challenging space projects. These new challenges imply an international cooperation between spacefaring nations, developing countries, national space agencies and industries. In this context, it is of utmost importance to identify some international mechanisms for space cooperation in order to meet the best interests of a peaceful space exploration. In particular, the paper analyzes the legally non-binding standards and guidelines which are now widely developing in order to enhance the participation of various space actors to future ambitious programs. The paper focuses especially on the Building Blocks adopted on 12 November 2019 by The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group. The development of space resource activities is happening now, and it is of utmost importance to set up some standards in order to support and coordinate the use of space resources by interested space actors. The Building blocks include various provisions that could potentially form part of future governance framework and be considered by States and international organisations. In a second part, the paper examines the diverse mechanisms of cooperation to remediate and remove space debris in orbit taking into account for instance the Compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and International organization which has been compiled by UNOOSA since 2016. Space mining and active debris removal represent both crucial issues for the next decades, and it is important to emphasize the international mechanisms of cooperation which will allow reaching the objectives of a sustainable and peaceful exploration of outer space.