

Transcending Societal Issues for Space Exploration (12)  
Transcending Societal Issues for Space Exploration (1) (1)

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THE EXPLOITATION OF SPACE RESOURCES: AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION?

**Abstract**

International regimes are actions of global governance based on permanent institutional arrangements, aimed at promoting cooperation and understanding between states. These institutions - principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures - reflect some of the actors convergent expectations regarding specific themes. Therefore, international regimes are formulated in order to address common problems, avoid conflicts and solve disputes regarding a particular issue. Although States are the main subjects of international regimes, other actors, such as international and non-governmental organizations, epistemic communities, as well as individuals, may play important roles in such arrangements. The working paper addresses the need to coordinate interests concerning space exploitation, due to the potentially conflictive relations and the normative gaps that surround those activities. The hypothesis is that the global governance actions are leading to the construction of an international regime of space resources exploitation. This regime would bent institutional arrangements aimed at promoting cooperation and understanding between States. This regime would be based on the development of principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures that reflect the convergent expectations of not only space stakeholders but also other interested parties. Proposals such as the Building Blocks presented by The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group may originate institutions capable of improving cooperation between States and influence a better coordination of all actors in space resources exploitation, contributing to the solution of current and future problems, considering the conflict potential caused by the normative gap in space activities regulation. Governance initiatives play a special part in the promotion of sustainable relations and activities. Documentary and bibliographic research and the hypotetico-deductive method are used in this paper.