

33rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
International cooperation in using space for sustainable development: Towards a ‘Space2030’ agenda (1)

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USE OF SPACE FOR A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATED
TO THE DEEP SEABED AND SPACE EXPLORATION

Abstract

Some relatively small countries have been considered to serve as facilitators for new ventures to exploit and explore the seabed and outer space. Luxembourg and Nauru could constitute two examples of such countries. Even though, it is common among industrialized states to establish obligations to share the benefits obtained from the exploitation of the seabed mining outside the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Countries like Luxembourg and its space mining legislation seem to point out that only the Moon Agreement, and not the Outer Space Treaty, designates space resources as common heritage. Therefore, one wonders whether not sharing could trigger an aggressive way of exploiting the seabed ignoring the applicable environmental law regime. The present paper suggests that the international community should respect and establish strong environmental bonds despite their extraterritorial expansion legal and policy regimes. The Working paper containing zero-draft of a “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan, promotes Space as a driver of sustainable development. Therefore, it must be proven that the use of space in the global work for a sustainable ocean economy respects the environment and guarantees sustainability for future generations. With the advent of climate change a harmful effect against the environment the role of the space sector as a major driver of sustainable development could be considered as ineffective.