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Assuring a Safe, Secure and Sustainable Environment for Space Activities (4)

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FROM SAFETY TO SECURITY: REDUCING THE THREAT ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE  
RESPONSIBLE USE OF OUTER SPACE

**Abstract**

This paper explores how existing and emerging norms of responsible behaviour in outer space that have developed in the civil and commercial sectors can be used to inform safe practices for space-based military capabilities and activities. Taking stock of the current normative landscape, it will present a visual map of best practices and principles related to safety, sustainability, and security in outer space that have been adopted over the last 50 years and consider how this landscape relates to emerging military activities in outer space. The goal is to consider ways in which growing global momentum to support safe and sustainable practices in outer space can move forward to include security considerations, where progress is lacking. The identification and adoption of responsible practices by military and national security operators can enhance the security of the space environment by making it easier to distinguish and identify potentially harmful activities by adversaries while reinforcing principles related to safety and sustainability for all users. The paper is the outcome of research supported by the Canadian Department of National Defence and a workshop with international experts and stakeholders.