

Transcending Societal Issues for Space Exploration (12)
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SPACE AS A CHANCE TO ACHIEVE SOVEREIGN EQUALITY

Abstract

Space, as a new place for humanity, is the opportunity to transcend societal issues. We must clarify first the words “societal issues”. Societal means “societal change, concerns, problems or values”. An issue is “a subject or problem that people are thinking and talking about”. Why should we transcend societal issues for space exploration? We can explain it from three different points of view. The first point of view is that space exploration, as a scientific field, needs to be free of any societal issue to deliver its full potential. Indeed science, to be efficient, must be perfectly neutral. The second point of view is that space exploration is only possible if societal issues on Earth are solved. How could we conquer space if Earth problems are not solved? Finally, we can argue a third point of view: space could be a place without any societal issues, a place where humanity could learn from its past and correct its future (a utopian view, letting the Earth dealing with its own problems).

Law reflects societal issues, correcting them, and so international law reflects the global societal issues States want to address but also shows the topics they avoid. Looking at international law is a way to understand and maybe to predict the future organization of space, and thus the societal issues of a space society.

Environmental law is a good example. Climate change is one of the biggest modern issue, States try to solve it at a national and international level, for an effectiveness nearly non-existent. International environmental law is non efficient and should be revised (at least its mechanisms). It means that in space, law must be thought differently.

How about inequalities? International law does not address inequalities, States deal with those problems at a national level. Sexism, racism, homophobia, poverty. . . How to solve inequalities? This question is far from simple and needs to be discussed now, or Space exploration will be tarnished. Without solutions, space society will be a pale copy of Earth society, with identical societal issues.

Law, as a stand for renewed principles, must be the center of Space exploration. To achieve a renewed and equal society, law has to be redefined between all States, space and non-space powers, governments, and the People. Otherwise, any other human society in space is doomed in advance.