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A UNIVERSAL MODEL ON SPACE POLICY: FRAMEWORK FOR EMERGING NATIONS IN SPACE
WITH CASE STUDIES ON INDIA, POLAND AND AFRICA.

Abstract

Over the past decade, the Space sector has grown immensely and has emerged as a multi-billion-dollar industry today. Given the security and economic significance, most nations are currently focusing on building or developing their indigenous space programs. However not much emphasis is given on having a concrete law and policy governing these activities. As a result, though a particular nation is technologically advanced, unavailability of legal framework interludes execution of their experiments, activities and the growth of the private sector as well. While the legal and policy framework is created to safeguard these activities, prevent and take action against malpractices, they are often termed as hurdles. This paper highlights the need and suggests a conducive Universal legal and policy framework which could benefit the upcoming space programs of various nations and also suggests certain cautionary segment to prevent errors.

At first, this paper throws light on the current scenario of space law policy by focusing on three different geographies, each at different stage with regards to its space programs, namely India, the African Continent, and Poland. While India has a successful space program operational since many decades, the policy framework in India is still under development. On the other hand, the African Space Program, which is in its initial developing stage, is currently focusing on establishment of African Space Agency to strengthen socio-economic transformation in the upcoming years. With respect to Poland, the Polish legislative commission envisages space law policy to fully meet internal demands of satellite infrastructure, capabilities to export their services to foreign markets and support implementation of these goals. Taking into consideration the privatization of the space sector, the intra and inter dependency of various stakeholders, existing draft space policies, requirements under international law and the outer space treaties, this paper highlights the basic requisites such as liability regimes, clarity on procedural and regulatory aspects, insurance, import and export regulations among various other considerations to be addressed in every national policy.

Thus, by delving into each geography, it formulates a universal model framework on space law policy thereby aiding nations, with international cooperation, to develop and strengthen their respective policies

in consonance with international law and thereby contributing to the rapidly scaling space economy and space exploration.