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An Outer Space Perspective on Climate Change (Space Law and Policy) (5)

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STRATEGIES IN SUPPORT OF SPACE DEBRIS MITIGATION FOR SUSTAINABLE SPACE ENVIRONMENT

Abstract

The potential of the space industry in commercial terms offers several significant uses across different industries such as earth observations, satellite communications, and navigation among others. In recent years, private and public outer space activities have increased compared to 5 years ago which means that there is a huge number of satellites of different sizes and characteristics as well as other instruments launched from the earth in outer space. However, it has become more uncertain and disturbing what it is happening with the space junk called "space debris" outer space where they are going, and potential problems could create outer space with influences in outer space law and legal tech issues. Since current policy instruments such as UN treaties and principles, as well as space agencies and private actors are struggling to foster compliance and enforcement for mitigating space debris in their operations for foster environmental practices. In fact, the international code of conduct for outer space activities has not been successful when it comes to enforce guidelines for space debris mitigation. Another example is the "25-year rule", which pretends to restrict the post-operational orbital life of objects in space to no more than 25 years. However, at the global level countries have been facing the challenges of regulate diverse space practices including space debris mitigation. Nonetheless, it has been challenging to create a clear international space regulatory system that can regulate outer space activities and boost policy instruments to increase national investments in space debris mitigation enforcement. The purpose of this study is to develop new foundations in outer space policy and law which are rooted in legal tech and geopolitics elements to increase awareness of interdependencies and investments to be important moderators of these effects. Alongside this, the author will conduct a review of regulatory frameworks to evaluate the impacts of active debris removal or other debris remediation technologies in space law and policy context.