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SUSTAINABILITY OF OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW: A COMPARATIVE APPROACH

Abstract

Sustainability of outer space activities encompasses the policy, regulatory, operational, safety, scientific, technical, international cooperation, and capacity-building aspects as defined in the Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines). Regarding the regulatory aspect, the adoption, revision, and modification of national regulatory frameworks, namely the implementation of international space law, is one of the elements to ensure the sustainability of outer space activities.

This study addresses the sustainability of outer space activities by focusing on the implementation of international space law using a comparative approach. To this end, I examine the national laws of states conducting satellite activities in Earth orbit before and after the adoption of the LTS Guidelines in 2019. Specifically, I examine whether states have adopted laws to fulfill their obligations under the United Nations Outer Space Treaties, particularly the Outer Space Treaty's Article on the International Responsibility of States for Outer Space Activities, the establishment of a national registration system from the Registration Convention, and the voluntary commitments from the UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines. In the end, the objective of the study is to discover the evolution of sustainability of space activities from a regulatory perspective before and after 2019 in order to discuss the way forward for the LTS Guidelines and sustainability of outer space activities in general.