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INSTITUTIONAL FRAGMENTATION OF GLOBAL SPACE GOVERNANCE AND THE URGENT  
NEED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GLOBAL SPACE ORGANIZATION**Abstract**

The existence of a wide range of international institutions, with unique mandates and competences, in regulating space activities, has resulted in institutional fragmentation of global space governance. The fact is that although the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUS) is regarded as the main actor in global space governance, the participation of other institutions in regulating space activities including but not limited to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) cannot be overlooked. As a consequence of the participation of these various institutions in regulating space activities, the structure of global space governance was diversified and fragmented simultaneously. Needless to say, as a result of this institutional fragmentation, the unification of global space governance may be endangered. Choosing the analytical research method, this paper aims at answering to this main question that considering the detrimental effects of institutional fragmentation of global space governance on the whole structure of global space governance and on its relation with general international law, how can the negative impacts of institutional fragmentation of global space governance, as a consequence of the participation of various actors in regulating space activities, be eliminated. The hypothesis of this article is that the establishment of the global space organization, notably as one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations may make a significant contribution in achieving the mentioned goal. For this purpose, the paper firstly goes through the concept of institutional fragmentation in light of the 2006 International Law Commission (ILC)'s work on fragmentation of international law. Afterwards, in section B, the examples of institutional fragmentation of global space governance on the one hand and its impacts on the whole structure of global space governance and on its relation with general international law are examined. Considering the structure of global governance in other areas, especially those environments which have the most similarities with outer space, including airspace and high seas, section C argues that the establishment of the global space organization can be considered as the best solution for the elimination of institutional fragmentation of global space governance.