

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
Young Scholars Session with Keynote Lecture (1)

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CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW IN OUTER SPACE: WORSE THAN ROCKET SCIENCE?

Abstract

The exploration and use of outer space have become increasingly important in recent years, with more states and private entities participating in space activities. As a result, the formation of customary international law in outer space has become a critical issue that requires attention. Customary international law arises from the practice of states that is accompanied by the belief that the practice is legally required or permissible.

It is essential to understand the formation process of customary international law in outer space as it provides a legal framework for regulating the activities of states and private entities in space. This legal framework promotes cooperation, enhances safety, and facilitates the peaceful use of outer space. The absence of a well-established legal framework could lead to conflicts, endangerment of lives, and environmental degradation in space.

Accelerating the formation process of customary international law in outer space is crucial as it addresses the current legal uncertainties surrounding space activities. While the Outer Space Treaty and other international agreements provide general guidelines, they lack specificity in addressing contemporary issues such as space debris and resource exploitation. An accelerated formation process of customary international law in outer space would help address these gaps in the existing legal framework and provide clarity and certainty in regulating space activities.

In conclusion, understanding the formation process of customary international law in outer space is crucial for the regulation of space activities. An accelerated formation process is equally important to address the gaps in the existing legal framework and provide a legal framework that is specific to contemporary issues in space activities.