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A WAY FORWARD? THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND LEGAL PRECONDITIONS FOR
ESTABLISHING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE MOON

Abstract

The creation of human settlements on the Moon requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach to international governance and space law anchored in a liberal institutionalist approach. The current international legal framework for space activities lacks clarity on critical legal questions such as resource utilization, liability, and safety zones implementation. Further, the geopolitical implications of space activities have changed significantly since the introduction of international space law treaties. The tense international context plays a crucial role in the lack of harmonized governance regarding lunar activities.

Private initiatives can contribute to the creation of guidelines and frameworks that are responsive to the changing needs of lunar settlements while ensuring that the interests of all stakeholders are taken into account. The importance of addressing the challenges related to lunar resource management as a first step to enable the creation of stable governance mechanisms also needs to be highlighted.

The conclusion reached by the publication is that the establishment of lasting and successful lunar settlements requires careful consideration of legal and political prerequisites. This presentation will discuss the liberal institutionalist theory, the role of private initiatives, the central role of resource management policies, and the necessity of using a flexible approach to governance as essential elements that must be considered in the development of lunar settlements governance regimes. A spectrum of solutions that allows for the adaptation of governance frameworks to the changing needs of lunar settlements is also essential.