

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
Key Governance Issues in the New Space Age (4)

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NEW AGE SPACE ACTIVITIES: IMPLEMENTING EARTH OBSERVATION AND REDUCE
INEQUALITY THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Abstract

One of the most qualifying and cutting-edge technologies of New Age Space is Artificial Intelligence. This technology is having a disruptive impact in the field of space activities, not only because of its extraordinary potential and its innovative contribution in the context of technological progress, but also thanks to the underlying philosophy of its use, a typically NewSpace philosophy, which aims at the automation of complex operations that lead to their simplification and the reduction of the costs of space activities, resulting in greater accessibility to the opportunities that the use of outer space offers. This paper aims to shed light, in particular, on the decisive contribution of artificial intelligence within the Earth Observation sector, and the positive repercussions of its contribution in this field, with an emphasis on the benefits that can be derived by developing Countries. This will be done by examining the relevant literature on the topic and by reflecting on Goal n. 10 of the UN Development Goals 2030 "Reduce inequality within and among countries". The paper will conclude with a reflection on how to encourage the use and development of artificial intelligence technology, examining the issues of intellectual property protection in this area and the issue of liability in the use of this technology, including through the analysis of the AI ACT, a recent proposed European Law on Artificial Intelligence.