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THE ADEQUACY OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW IMPLANT FOR REGULATING COMMERCIAL SPACE EXPLORATION

Abstract

In the NewSpace Economy era, the need to assess the adequacy of current international space law implant for regulating commercial space exploration is of paramount importance considering the potential of the lunar economy in the near future and lunar activities carried out by new and established space actors. Technology access and its progress, along with advancements in policy and new regulations, have made Public-and-Private Partnerships (PPP) the mean for both public and commercial actors to concentrate their efforts once more on human and robotic space exploration missions. Furthermore, taking into account that one day the private companies and technologies operating on the Moon could potentially contribute to the global challenges we are facing on Earth. The present paper will analyse how can the industry, legal and political issues associated with the commercialization of space exploration be effectively handled at the international level to promote safe, sustainable, and peaceful exploration and exploitation of the Moon and its resources for private industry, in conformity with international space law. Hence, to what extent is existing international law, particularly international space law, applicable to commercial space ISRU activities, and what challenges arise as a result.