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BRAZIL'S DIPLOMATIC HISTORY AND SCENARIO PLANNING TO UNDERSTAND ITS
PLACEMENT WITHIN CURRENT SPACE GEOPOLITICS

Abstract

In its history, Brazil's diplomatic policy has been traditionally one of neutrality, while promoting sovereignty and national development. Pragmatic equidistance leading to the Second World War, followed by an independent external policy that cherishes multilateralism are evidence to such neutrality. In the space sector, it has been no different. Brazil, one of the 18 founding members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), holds partnerships with many nations. Notably, while a signatory of the Artemis Accords, it also participates in space activities of the BRICS, a group also constituted by Russia, India, China and South Africa. In the world of 2023, considering increasing tensions among countries, an anti-globalism trend and ever further developments in the space sector, how does Brazil fit within current space geopolitics? This paper attempts to foresee the unpredictable, as the world changes, by relying on the methodology of scenario planning. A literature review addresses the history of Brazil's external policy and the concepts behind scenario planning, followed by the listing of trends in the space sector. As New Space is identified as a megatrend, the analysis of other megatrends leads to the creation of scenarios regarding Brazil's involvement in international space endeavors. Can it maintain its neutrality status in the future of space exploration?