

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

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A LEGAL OVERVIEW ON THE USE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY FOR GOVERNANCE OF RISK
ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Abstract

Climate change and climate change induced disasters have become one of the most pressing issue for the vast majority of the countries in the world, affecting not only our ecosystems and human health but also the economies of these countries. This is posing significant challenges to governments and policy makers, particularly in matters of risk assessment and risk management of climate change. Space technology, such as telecommunication, remote sensing, earth observation and global navigation satellite systems can provide crucial data to support risk management strategies at the local, national and international level.

This paper examines the legal and regulatory frameworks governing the use of space technology in climate change related risk assessment and management. It further explores the legal challenges faced when space technology is used for climate change governance, specifically in matters relating to collection and use of space data, data privacy and security. The paper will further look into the equitable sharing of these space technology by the countries having such capabilities which would bridge the space divide between countries having such space capabilities and developing/least-developing countries that would otherwise have no opportunities to access such data derived from the use of space technology. The paper will finally argue for the need for these countries to engage in increased international cooperation and collaboration for a responsible and sustainable use of these resources for an effective climate change governance.