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ADDRESSING OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES AS A PUBLIC CONCERN: COMPARATIVE
EXPERIENCES IN LATIN AMERICA REGARDING THE INTEGRATION OF OUTER SPACE
ACTIVITIES INTO THE PUBLIC AGENDA

Abstract

Throughout 67 years of international space activity, a sine qua non factor that explains the success of long-term space programs has been the alignment of the will of political decision-makers and the identification of social benefits, in the form of solutions to public issues, based on the fulfillment of the State's strategic objectives and interests. In this way, comparative experience has shown that in countries where space development is just one facet of the State's activities (analogous to education, economy, health, or international relations), there has been, from the outset, a correlation with the establishment of space activities as a topic on the public agenda. This, in turn, has garnered the support of civil society for these endeavors, consequently constructing the foundation of legitimacy for the political decision-making process in space development. This research is an exploratory study, conducted under a comparative exploration across 05 Latin American countries actively involved in space activities within key spheres of State Power—diplomacy, economy, military, and psychosocial. Its principal research goal is to substantiate the correlation between the integration of space activities into the public agenda and the measurable surge of political will (endorsement) evidenced through the achievement or consolidation of space capabilities linked to the resolution of public issues. By delving into these dynamics, this research will contribute nuanced insights to the international academic knowledge surrounding the intersection of space endeavors, political will, and societal problem-solving. Finally, as an exploratory study, this research will furnish novel analytical frameworks essential for comprehending the development of space activities in developing regions. Through the consolidation of evidence at intermediate levels of abstraction, this investigation facilitates the extrapolation of findings to similar areas across diverse global geographies. The outcomes hold the potential to generate medium-range models, fostering the international advancement of knowledge regarding the complexities inherent in political decision-making processes, models, schemes, and engagement strategies within the realm of space activities. In essence, this research serves as a vital conduit, bridging the intellectual expanse between political, social, and human sciences and the cutting-edge landscape of high technology. Engaging with this study is an invitation to delve into a pivotal exploration that transcends disciplinary boundaries, offering a nuanced perspective on the intersection between societal dynamics and the forefront of space exploration.