

IAF SYMPOSIUM ON SECURITY, STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SPACE ACTIVITIES
(E9)

Interactive Presentations - IAF SYMPOSIUM ON SECURITY, STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY
OF SPACE ACTIVITIES (IPB)

Author: Mrs. Victoria Valdivia
Chile

THE MITIGATION OF GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
TRANSPARENCY AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES: A PROPOSAL FOR
CROSS-INSPECTIONS OF GROUND SPACE FACILITIES TO PREVENT THE WEAPONIZATION
OF OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES.

Abstract

The rapid advancement of technology, coupled with the increasing dependence of human societies on space-based systems, underscores the strategic significance of space-based information in the day-to-day of States. This heightened importance has led to the development of various legal frameworks and political norms within States, designed to safeguard their ability to access and leverage the benefits derived from space.

Nevertheless, the surge in international uncertainty, stemming from shifts in the concept of the international order and the subsequent rise of both inter and intrastate conflicts, has created a heightened sense of ambiguity surrounding prospective space activities and the evolution of new segments of space technologies. Consequently, the emergence of new military forces asserting dominance in the space domain, coupled with the evident possession of counterspace capabilities by various States, represents a concerning trend that jeopardizes the fundamental principle of peaceful uses of outer space activities.

Given the pivotal role of space-based activities in the daily lives of humankind and the global interdependence on these systems, this research aims to address the challenge of garnering international consensus for the establishment of new agreements that enhance the principles of peaceful uses of outer space activities. To achieve this objective, a comparative case study methodology will be employed, with a focus on the cross inspections of Antarctic facilities as the observed case. This multilateral process, implemented in the strategically significant Antarctic region, has demonstrated its efficacy in reducing incentives to develop capabilities for "self-defense" that could potentially lead to weaponization, even in periods lacking multilateral cooperation, as is evident in the current era.

The findings of this comparative research are anticipated to make a significant contribution to the international academic community by presenting new models for the adoption of non-binding protocols. These protocols can play a crucial role in enhancing transparency and mutual confidence measures through cross inspections of ground space facilities belonging to states that are parties to the Outer Space Treaty. As an exploratory research endeavor, this paper seeks to provide fresh perspectives on the formulation of space policies, politics, and norms, ultimately aiming to preserve the foundational principles of outer space activities.