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BEYOND NATIONALISM: A CALL FOR UNIFIED GOVERNANCE IN THE NEW SPACE AGE

Abstract

The burgeoning space industry offers immense potential for scientific discovery, technological advancement, and resource utilization. However, current trends paint a concerning picture of a fragmented landscape, dominated by competing national interests. The Artemis Accords and the China-Russia MoU for a lunar station, while fostering individual ambitions, present a risk of replicating terrestrial geopolitical tensions in the celestial sphere. This abstract argues for the urgent necessity of complete international cooperation, transcending national boundaries to establish a unified space society and economy.

The Outer Space Treaty, a cornerstone of space law, mandates peaceful exploration and cooperation. Its first principle states that: “the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind”. Yet, the current space race mentality threatens to undermine these principles. Fragmented governance creates redundancy, hinders scientific progress, and increases the risk of accidents and debris accumulation in Earth’s orbit, jeopardizing the future of space exploration for all. This abstract proposes a paradigm shift towards a human-centric space governance model. Building upon existing international frameworks, nations must work collaboratively to establish a unified body dedicated to space exploration and development. This body would oversee resource allocation, establish safety protocols, and foster international collaboration on large-scale space projects.

Such a model requires a collective commitment to transparency and shared benefits. By pooling resources, transferring technology and expertise, we can accelerate scientific breakthroughs and ensure equitable access to space resources for all nations. Additionally, international collaboration fosters innovation and reduces the financial burden of space exploration, allowing smaller nations to participate meaningfully.

The space frontier represents a unique opportunity for humanity to unite and work towards a common goal. By prioritizing cooperation over competition, we can ensure a sustainable and peaceful future for our species in the cosmos.