

International Cooperation, Challenges, and New Horizons (1)
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SPACE DIPLOMACY: LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR
SUSTAINABILITY IN OUTER SPACE

Abstract

The growing interest in utilizing resources from space marks a pivotal shift in how we view our relationship with the universe. As governments and private companies explore the idea of mining asteroids and moons, we are entering uncharted territory with various legal and diplomatic challenges. We must develop cooperative frameworks to ensure that our outer space endeavours are sustainable and responsible. This paper explores the evolving world of space diplomacy, aiming to tackle these complex challenges. It digs into the legal maze surrounding resource extraction in space, raising important questions about ownership rights and the need for fair access for all nations and private entities. A close look reveals significant gaps within existing international treaties, like the Outer Space Treaty and the Moon Agreement. While these agreements lay some groundwork, they fail to address the specifics of space resource mining and utilization. Additionally, the paper examines how recent national laws and bilateral agreements could shift the legal landscape for space activities. It suggests that we need a comprehensive, multilateral framework that can provide clear guidelines for how we go about harvesting resources in space. This framework should prioritize environmental preservation while ensuring everyone has a fair opportunity to participate. Ultimately, space diplomacy is about balancing competing interests with a shared commitment to sustainable development, social justice, and global cooperation. By doing so, we can create an environment where the benefits of space exploration and resource use are shared widely rather than concentrated in the hands of a few. This is particularly important as we navigate the exciting yet delicate frontier of space resources.