

# Space Security: Trends and Responses

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- Space Security: A Context
- International Responses: Current Space Security Initiatives
- Food for Thought

# Space Security: A Context

- Certain orbits are a **limited resource**
  - How best do we secure their maximum use for the long-term?
- From the disarmament perspective:
  - Prevent weaponisation of space
  - Prevention of an arms race in outer space (**PAROS**)
- From the **sustainability** perspective:
  - Maximize humanity's ability to continue to use space resources
    - Significant dependence of developed and developing countries on space enablers

- From a policy perspective, space security is becoming more and more prominent.
- However, key considerations need to be taken into account in the international policy arena in the formulation of cooperative space security initiatives:
  - Organizational proliferation
  - Options of legal and policy models
  - International political climate
- How does one achieve a balance between the interests of those States already heavily invested in the space environment and emerging space States?

- Rise in the number of space actors
  - Now over 60 entities have space assets and all nations depend on space data to some extent.
- Increased space usage by government, civil and military, and the general populace
  - GPS, banking, weather and many other uses

# International Responses: Current Space Security Initiatives

- Overall, there is a need to bring the international community together on how space security issues are dealt with in the future.
- Currently, there are a selection of initiatives being presented in the international community that attempt to deal with space security questions – some from the civil perspective, some from the disarmament perspective.
- Need for a conjoined approach to many of these issues as, given the unique nature of the space environment, there are many aspects that affect both civil and military activities

**Without security there is no safety  
and without safety there is no security**

- Treaties
  - Legally binding
  - Consent to be bound
- Customary International Law
  - 2 conditions :Opinio Juris (belief that something is a law); widespread State practice
- Soft Law
  - Guidelines, etc.
    - Evidence for Custom
- Concept of Enforcement in International law
  - Enforcement is not a central part of the international legal regime
    - Not because the law is weak but because the concept doesn't really work given the nature of State sovereignty
    - Less conventional 'sticks'

- PAROS
  - Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space
  - Currently the only document that has been formally submitted to the CD is the Chinese-Russian Draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space.
  - There is however, a shift in attitude in the international community - new ideas and proposals are being discussed and, hopefully, will be put forward formally in international fora

- Why follow norms?
  - Because they are in the state's best interest; if not, won't follow
  - By agreeing to certain rules, states would clarify responsible and irresponsible actions
- Space-related examples of norms of behavior
- Examples of creating norms
  - North Korea: an example of abiding/ignoring norms for satellite launch
- What happens when space actors defy norms?
- Why do norms matter?

- Pros
  - Can establish effective behavior that will allow space-users to continue to receive benefits from space
  - Could lay groundwork for later legal agreements along the same lines
- Cons
  - No legal obligation to follow through on norms of behavior
  - May handle the easiest issues to resolve internationally, which may not be what's needed to ensure space usable in the long-run
  - Don't cover all contingencies/fill in the blanks currently existing in existing space regulatory regimes

- European Proposal for an International Code of Conduct for Space Activities
- Agreements on Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs)
- Commercial data-sharing initiatives – Space Data Association

# Food for Thought

- From the disarmament perspective, the key aims are:
  - Prevent space from becoming an arena of conflict
  - Prevent terrestrial conflict from being created by uncertainty or misunderstanding in space

- **KEY CHALLENGE:**
  - Bringing together the new initiatives into a network of effective agreement that regulates human interaction in space without hindering the entry of new players into the space arena.
    - Regional or multilateral?
- Need to develop common lexicon, common understanding of red lines and an effective dialogue of strategic communication for space.
  - Building and universalizing a framework of terms and concepts for discussing such issues can support a more in-depth understanding of the issues.
- Given that space is so globalised, it is imperative that ALL space actors are engaged and invested in space security initiatives

# Many Thanks

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