



China and Space Sustainability

International Perspectives on Space Sustainability
from Africa, Asia, and Latin America

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OUTLINE

- I. Policies concerning space sustainability
- II. China's endeavors to space sustainability
- III. Some comments and considerations





I. Policies concerning space sustainability

- China's policy system
 - China's main policy documents are issued over a period of 5 years
 - 2011 is the beginning of the 12th five year plan period
 - Policy hierarchy:
 - The core: outline for National economic and social development
 - Supporting plans focused on specific domains issued by the State Council, departments and agencies
 - Regional plans
 - China's Space Activities in 2011





“China's Space Activities in 2011”

- A routine since 2000 (2000, 2006, 2011)
- Issued by Information Office of the State Council, rather than by the State Council or Office of the State Council
- In form of “white paper”
- supposed to make Chinese space activities more predictable and transparent





Space security and sustainability related issues within the white paper

- **Basic principle:** China will work together with the international community to maintain a peaceful and clean outer space
- **Space science:** space environment observation and forecasting
- **Space debris:** tracking, monitoring and warning
- **International cooperation**
 - development of a space data-sharing platform, and an Earth-based optic space target observation network Under the APSCO frame





II. China's endeavors to space sustainability

- development of SSA capabilities, sharing SSA data
- Actively involved in IADC and UN COPUOS
- Launched space debris action plan in 2000 focusing on debris pre-warning, protection, and mitigation
- Issued Requirements for Space Debris Mitigation in 2005 in accordance with the IDAC guideline
- Initiated PPWT with Russia in 2007





III. Some comments and considerations

- China pays great attention to the security and sustainability of out space, reflected both on international arena and domestic activities
- Willingness of play a more active and even leading role
- But still limited cooperation and involvement





III. Some comments and considerations

- From the perspective of history, the development of China for the last 3 decades is a process of gradually integrating into the global regime which is dominated by the western world (Steinfeld, 2011)
- It's the same situation in terms of space exploration
- From the perspective of domestic politics, space sustainability issue is still not on the urgent political agenda of Chinese government
 - Evidenced by lack of space legislation, explicit and robust national space policy, and authorities





Alternative reactions to the Code of Conduct

- Active acceptance
- Conditional acceptance
- Straddle
- Opposition





Most likely choice: conditional acceptance

- Actively get involved rather than passive acceptance to protect and enhance national interests, and seek to the benefits and right for future development of emerging countries
 - Best practice accord with the benefits of all human beings
 - China's willingness to play a more active role on the international stage
 - Preliminary bilateral discussion and suggestions
 - Official proclamation of the US government
 - Fulfill the consistent pattern of behavior of China concerning international affairs
 - Avoidance of a more isolated situation





THANKS!

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