

The Emerging Space Faring Nations & Challenges For

Peaceful Exploration



Miqdad Mehdi

28 Xianning W Rd, JiaoDa ShangYe JieQu, Beilin Qu, Xian Shi, Shaanxi Sheng, China.

Introduction

The use of satellites for remote sensing and communications has brought much convenience to our daily life. These developments have successfully extended the geographical limits of human activities from airspace to outer space. It is recognized that legal regulation is vital for the conduction of space activities, to realize the goal that the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind. This article aims to provide a better understanding of current challenges, space debris, TCBM and peaceful space exploration. This article deals with the preliminary question of whether there is a unitary perspective of developing nations about sustainability of outer space. Moreover, the influence of existing international law, including space treaties and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly (GA). Last part discusses the vision of space faring nations on long term sustainability of outer space activities and how space faring nations are taking part to fill the gap in international law and move forward for better space exploration.

- Military satellites already functioned for navigation, communications, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, etc. It is necessary to distinguish between military uses that are passive and non-destructive versus active and destructive purposes.
- The UNGA adopted several resolutions on PAROS and Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures (TCBM) in the previous two decades, but no practical steps have been taken. The deadlock can be seen in the CD, Russia, including developing countries, particularly China, continued to push for negotiations regarding PAROS. Russia and China have tabled the working papers on PAROS, TCBM, and mainly PPWT.



A Unitary Perspective of Developing Countries on space sustainability

- Outer Space Treaty 1967 was the first treaty and unitary effort of space-faring nations to govern space activities. Initially in COPUOS and other forums related to outer space has witnessed less participation of developing countries.
- Despite the lack of participation, OST is the most successful treaty among all space treaties that shows the confidence of developing nations. The protection of rights and interests of developing nations provide a reason to believe in OST by developing countries.
- The negotiation for OST held with approach to serve the “3S” space safety, space security and space sustainability.
- The Moon Agreement (MA), a failed treaty, has no legal effect because of the non-participation of the big three China, Russia, and the US. The developing nations were much more active in the negotiation of MA as compare to OST. The treaty received massive input from developing nations.
- From 2014 the GA adopted for the first time a resolution entitled “No first placement of weapons in outer space” the United States, Georgia, Israel, Ukraine, France, Poland, with six more countries voted against the resolution in the 73rd session in 2018.
- In 2017 the GA, for the first time, adopted a resolution 72/250 named “Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space.” The resolution has new elements and emphasis on a “community of shared future for mankind” and to establish a group of governmental experts (GGEs).
- They have always been opposed to the weaponization of space and an arms race in outer space but conducted ASAT misadventure.

Future Role of Developing Nations

- The CD adopts its own rules of procedure and agenda.
- The growing outer space challenges of outer space have not been adequately addressed in the CD, but it has the potential to be more productive.
- GGE and legal binding instrument.
- Russia and Pakistan signed a joined statement on “No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space.” They expressed their commitment to preventing outer space from becoming an arena of military confrontation

Conclusion

- Ignorance policy of the Space Powers towards the moon treaty, multiple resolutions on space security does not satisfy the developing nations and even developed nations for the peaceful use of outer space.
- Space security could not be ensured with loopholes in outer space treaty and without global acceptance of moon agreement. The UN GA & the CD should be tasked to develop further governance regimes, for the satisfaction of developing countries.
- Any single country cannot claim global hegemony. Governments have their cloud of influence. A country like India is also eager to show its space power does not care, anyone, including the US, while conducting ASAT.
- when there is no absolute global power, and many powerhouses in the world will exist. It will only get more complicated. Finally, all member states must cooperate to ensure that space is a safe place that all member states can enjoy the usage of without impeding on the sovereignty of others.

Existing International Regime and New Challenges

- Article 4 prevents nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). The use of military personnel for scientific research or any other peaceful purposes is not prohibited. The use of any equipment or facility necessary for peaceful exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies are not prohibited.
- After the production of advanced technological weapons, article 4 loses its worth. Typically, WMDs only include nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. Now the world has more advanced and lethal weapons and destructive technology, such as kinetic energy and hypervelocity weapons, particle beam weapons, and electromagnetic and radiation weapons.

Acknowledgement

- I would like to express my special thanks of gratitude to my Professor Su Jinyuan.