

Space governance: the role and contribution of international intergovernmental organisations

Dr. Marco Ferrazzani

**Legal Counsel and Head of the Legal Services Department
European Space Agency**

Director of the International Institute of Space Law

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Outer Space: an International Endeavour

- No sovereignty over Outer Space
- Large allocation of public resources (including technological ones) to advance Space activities
- Shared access to limited resources: frequencies, science data, meteo, geoinfo
- Coexistence of multiple players in Outer Space: gov't, science, commerce



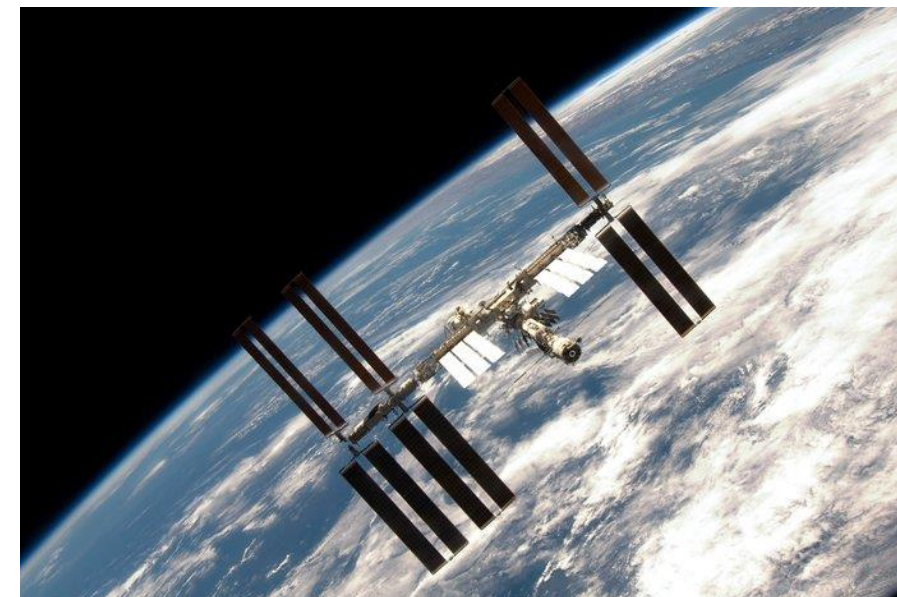
COOPERATION FOR SHARED ACCESS AND USE OF OUTER SPACE



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Cooperation: a central aspect of space law

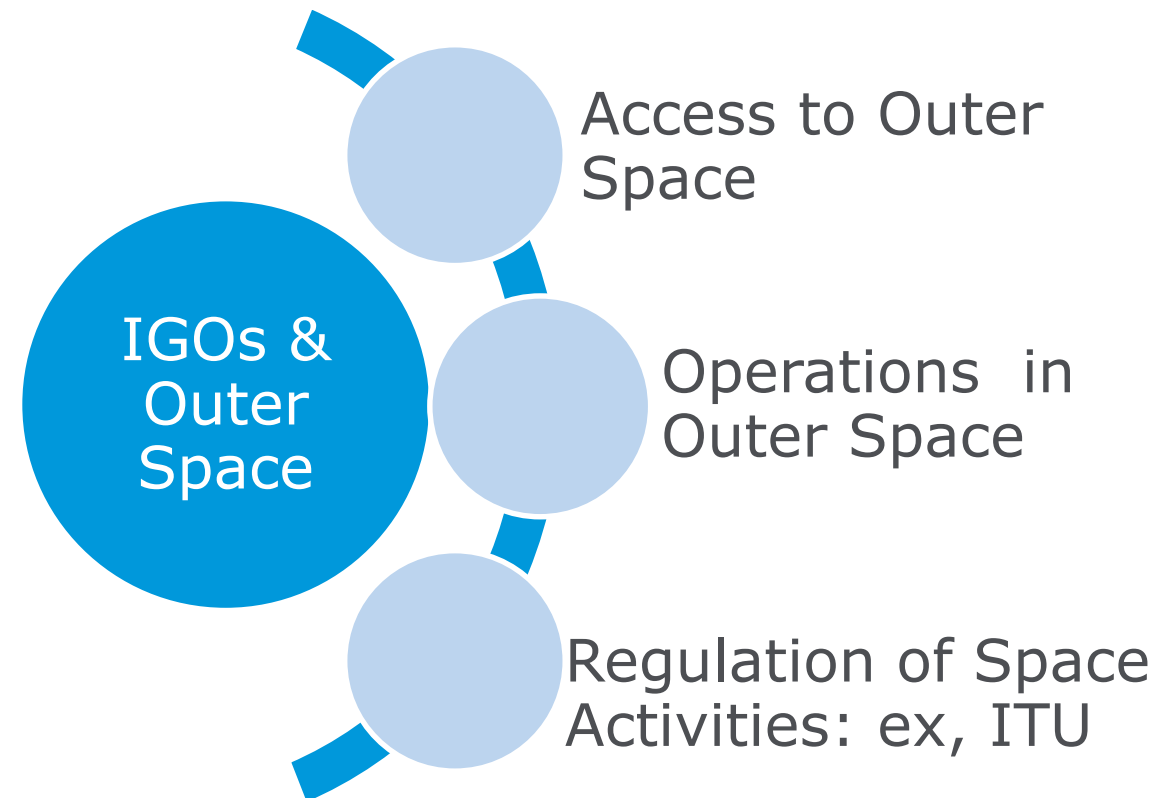
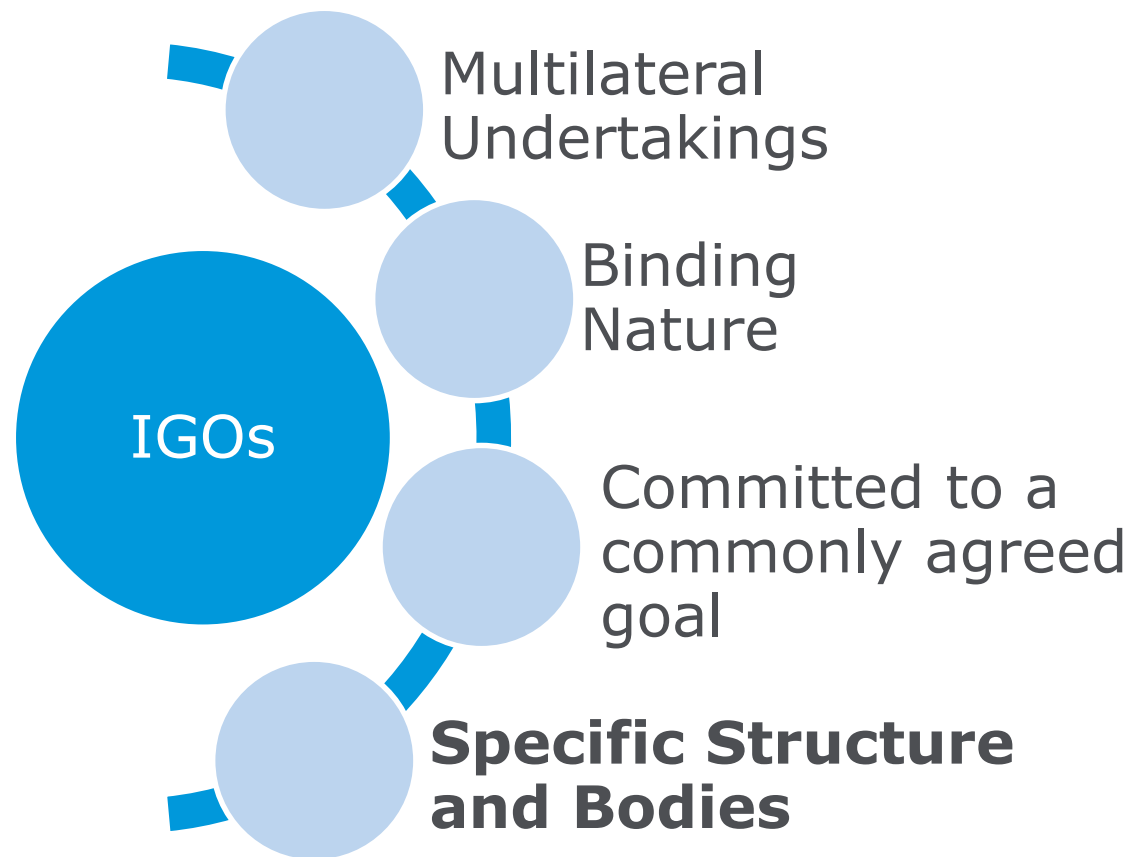
- **to prevent** outer space from becoming an area of conflict
- **to distribute** space benefits between space-faring and non-space-faring States
- **to advance** the exploration and use of space through resources efficiency

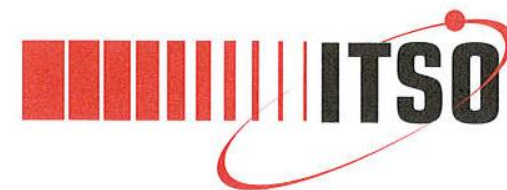


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IGOs: State-enabled fora for International Cooperation

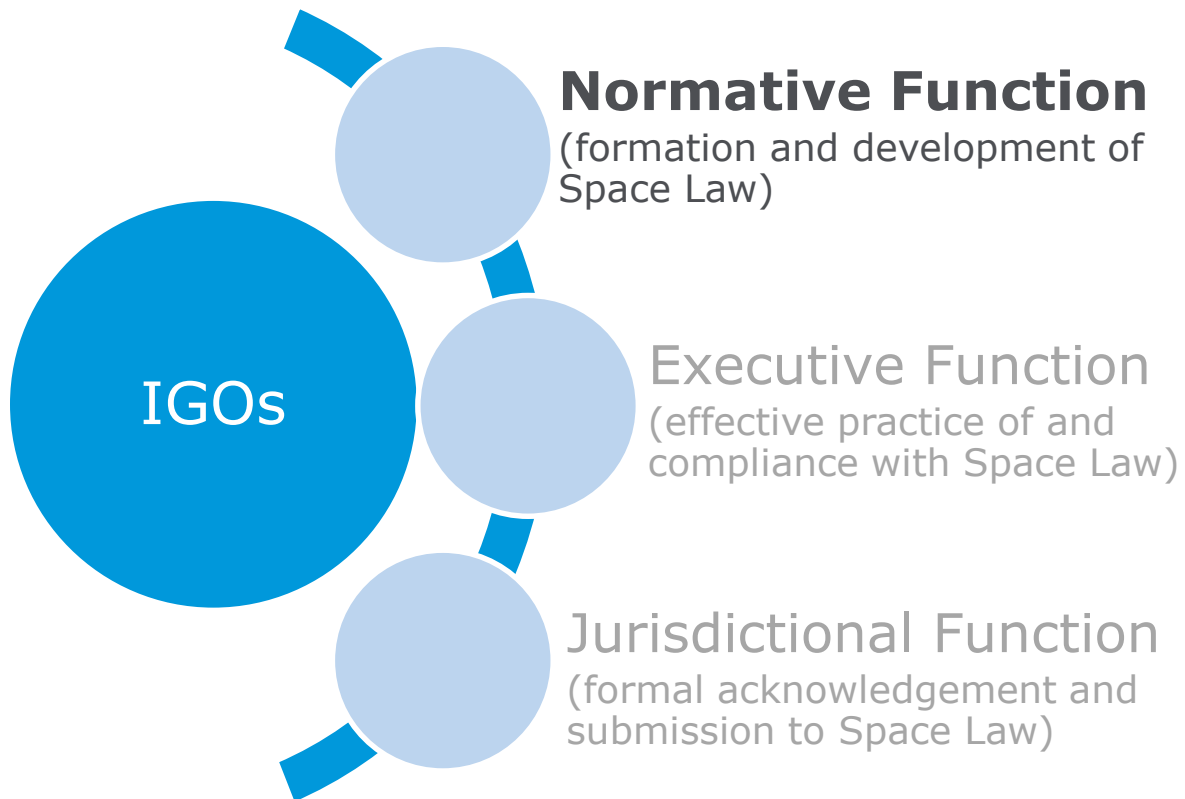




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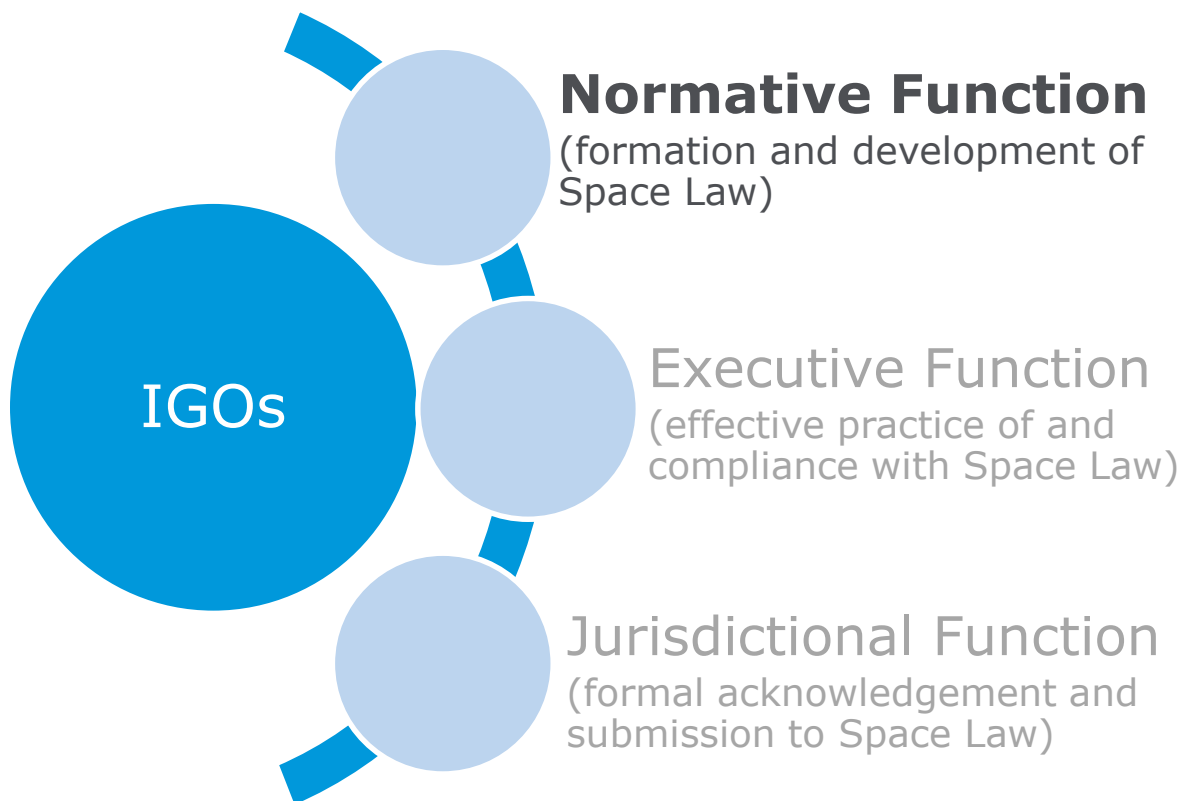


The Role and Contributions of IGOs to Space Governance



- IGOs as States' tools to shape or maintain **specialized space regimes**, managed collectively by the States through **specific and stable structures** – e.g., UN COPUOS, ITU, WMO, Disaster Charter
- IGOs as more **responsive structures** to the **fast -evolving needs of Space actors** (increasingly also of a technical nature), providing **stable sets of rules, norms, standards**, necessary for, among others, space access and **management of scarce resources**
- less political, more **technical, result oriented** cooperation approach

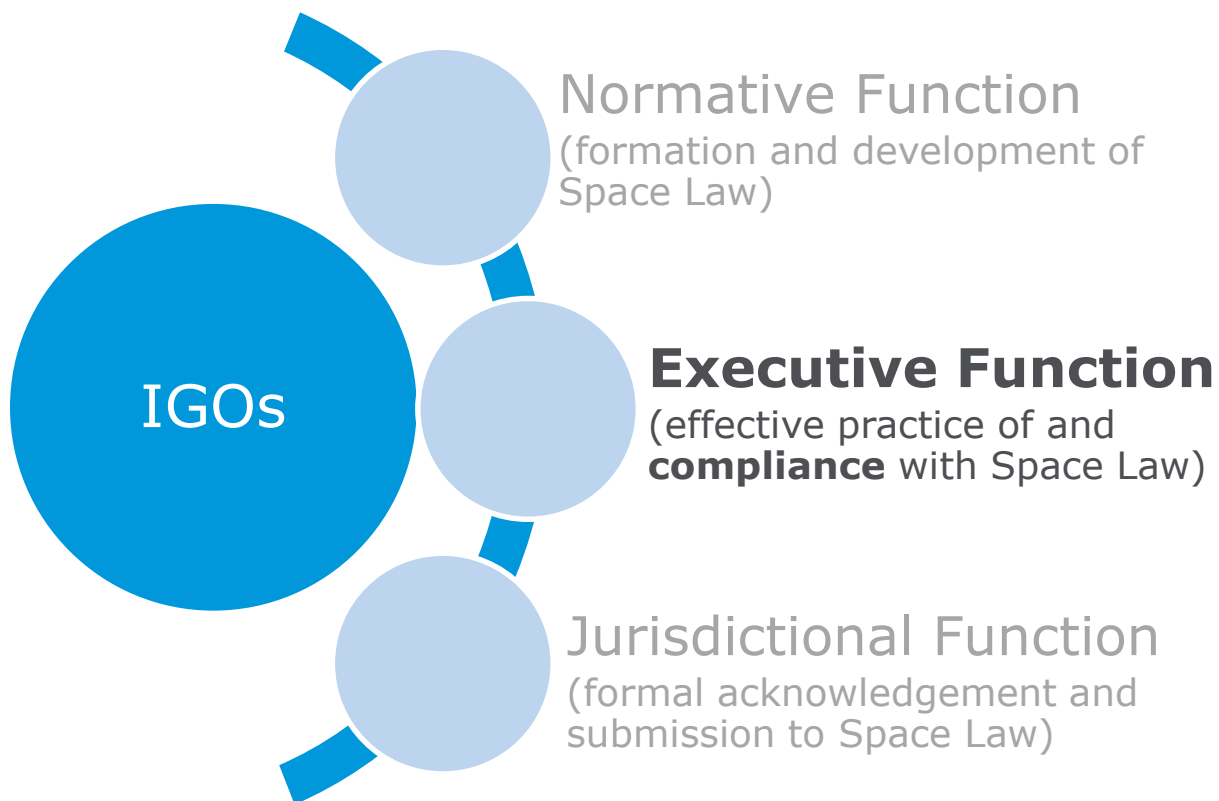
The Role and Contributions of IGOs to Space Governance



- The normative role of IGOs is **still limited**:
 - Binding nature of rules produced limited to member states
 - Fragmentary body of rules, of an ever-evolving nature, not organic
 - Overlapping of mandates with other actors activities (even if arising to bypass inefficiencies of current IGOs)
 - Not a direct general source of International Law
- But, acknowledgement that **customary practice in Outer Space coming from IGOs may have customary value**

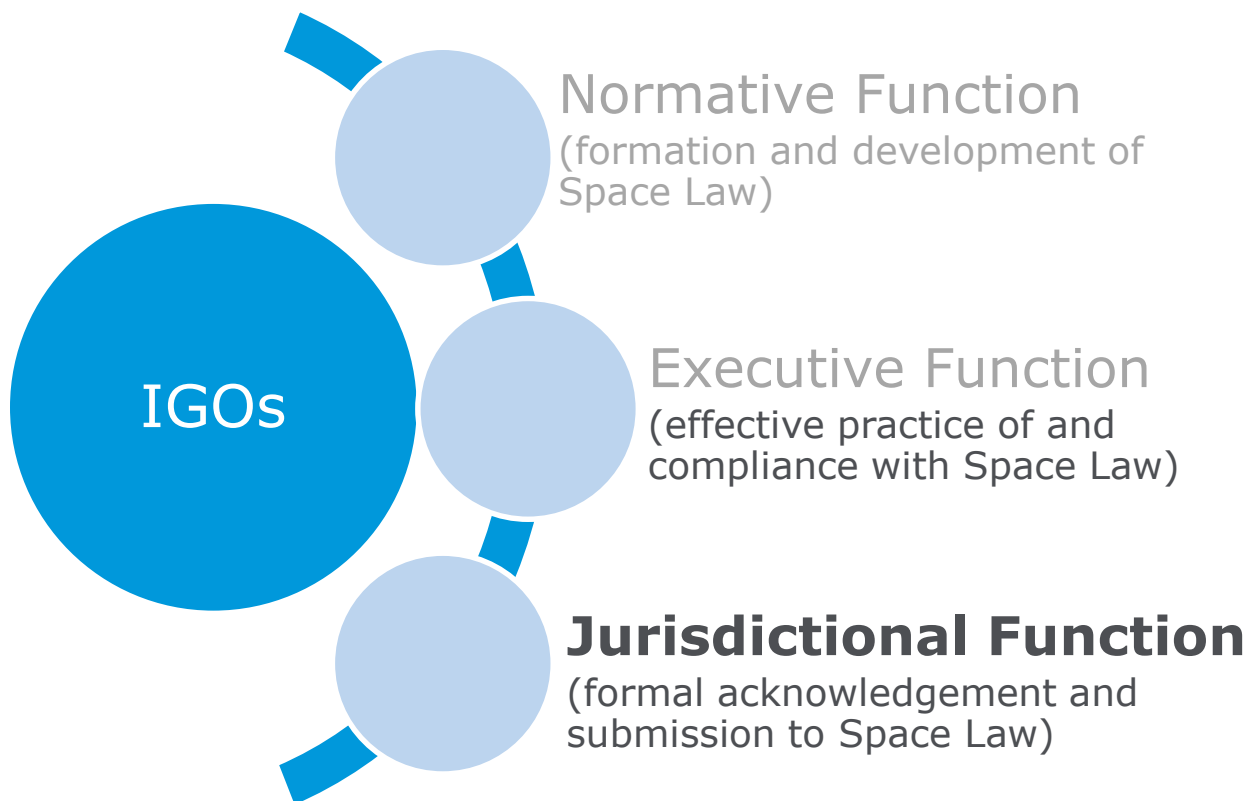
The Role and Contributions of IGOs to Space

Governance



- Carried out by **several actors** and arising from the **implementation of national and international rules** (including those not expressly mandated on Outer Space law) and the creation, by IGOs, of **new international acts developing Space matters**
- Effective practice of IGOs helps the **formation of some universal values**, preparing for the normative results, and the **implementation of new mechanisms advancing cooperation** on Space
- Some States get **access to space** benefits only via such IGOs

The Role and Contributions of IGOs to Space Governance



- In the scope of the mandates attributed to them, **IGOs have adhered to** relevant international bodies of Space Law and, more recently, even **unilaterally submitting themselves to such rules** (e.g. Intersputnik and the OST)
- Having IGOs, under their discretionary appreciation and exercise of legal powers, confirming and applying a normative system of binding obligations clearly sends a message to other space actors on the **stability of those rules** and the existence of a “level playing field” to be respected by all space actors

IGOs in the current context for Outer Space

- Tug-of-war between multilateralism and unilateralism puts at stake the role of IGOs in Outer Space
- However, Outer Space is necessarily an international endeavor that **requires cooperation between States to ensure that mankind benefits**, as whole, from scarce resources
- IGOs, such as UN, building on their expertise, continue to be the **best tool available to States** for such cooperation as to achieve **common goals for mankind**

