



Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Sustainability

Future of Space Governance

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Role of Multilateral Orgs is Changing

- Multilateral orgs used to be the only game in town – now one of several different approaches
 - Space actors – both in number and type – have changed
 - How international community attempts to govern this shared space must change
- Still a role for multilateral discussions
 - UNCOPUOS’ endorsement of preamble and 21 guidelines for long-term stability a recent success
 - Even it has limitations

Lack of Movement on Space Security Issues

- Multilateral orgs have recently been completely stymied in achieving momentum on space security-related issues
 - Conference on Disarmament
 - EU Draft Code of Conduct
- This has ground to a halt over the past several years
 - CD Subsidiary Body 3 on PAROS: only able to adopt a procedural report
 - UNDC Working Group 2: unable to meet due to visa issues
 - GGE on PAROS: unable to come to a consensus so no final report
- Disagreements on how to approach shared threats
 - Hard to get momentum on governance of a shared domain when players don't agree on what the threats are



Shift Focus to Like-Minded Actors and Norms

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- It might be time to focus instead on norms of responsible behavior
 - And work with like-minded actors so the focus is on commonality of interests
 - Might have avoided failure of EU CoC
- Consensus is important...in certain circumstances
 - UN and other major multilateral fora are useful in highlighting areas of concerns and airing opinions on issues
 - Have the hard discussions outside the UN, then bring back solutions to it for socialization, implementation

Commercial Sector Provides Possible Options

- Commercial sector has truly evolved throughout Space Age
 - With the rise of megaconstellations, space domain is going to be predominantly commercial
 - This raises governance challenges
- Commercial sector getting out ahead by setting up norms/standards it finds palatable
 - SDA
 - CONFERS
 - Space Safety Coalition’s Best Practices for the Sustainability of Space Operations
 - SIA’s Principles of Space Safety for Commercial Satellite Industry
 - Demonstrates appetite for non-legally binding norms of responsible behavior

Striking the right balance

- Don't want to leave too much of the norm-setting power in the hands of the commercial sector
 - Low-hanging fruit, not necessarily what needs to be done
 - Ignores that aspects of space are that of a public good and thus require government intervention
- Encouraging investment while providing enough support for spaceflight safety
 - SSA: must recognize the role of commercial SSA
 - STM: requires enforcement and rule-making capacity
- Challenge to get right but important to do so
 - If we want to continue to receive the benefits from the use of space, we must change how we approach space governance



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Questions?

Thanks.

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