Multilateral discussions on space: Recent successes and future goals

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Why do we need multilateral discussion

- **International rule can only be effective when there are:**
  - Commitment of major space powers
  - Clear mandate for achieving objectives
  - Shared understanding and norms on the objectives and methods
  - Rules and procedure to settle conflicts and define rights
  - Recognition by all stakeholders that it is beneficial
- **The only way to achieve them: multilateral discussion**

Shared objectives and norms

- Protecting space environment
  - Avoid collision
  - Reduce debris
  - Not to create new debris (intentionally/unintentionally)
  - Control orbital environment
- Debris mitigation guidelines
  - Successful multilateral rulemaking
    - Role of IADC – technical discussion
    - Sense of urgency and common threats after 2007 ASAT test

Difficulties of current discussions

- No common understanding of procedures and rights
  - Some countries want to maintain maximum freedom
    - Space became important for socio-economic and military activities
    - Trade-off between common interest and individual interests
    - In order to protect one's rights, you need to recognize rights of others
  - Different degree of dependence on space
    - Some countries are more vulnerable than others
    - If you are using more space, you are more vulnerable
    - Different sense of importance and urgency
    - No shared feeling that international rules are beneficial for all

Beyond ICoC and PPWT

- Both ICoC and PPWT are on the deadlock
  - No shared understanding and norms
  - No common understanding of procedures and rights
- Space Traffic Management (STM)
  - It may serve as common rules for all
  - Common objectives: avoid collision
  - Beneficially for all spacefaring nations
  - More technical than political
  - Transparency and Confidence-building measures
- STM can only be possible if there is cooperation and sharing of SSA data