

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)  
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THE RIGHT TO A PLANET: HOW TO PREVENT STATELESSNESS IN NONAPPROPRIATED  
SPACE

**Abstract**

The right to vote has long been the bedrock of citizenship in liberal democracies. The right to vote is just one of several so-called participatory rights that allow citizens of states to participate in the political process. This paper will consider some of the practical concerns and implications that accompany extraterrestrial citizenship and how to prevent statelessness in non-appropriated outer space. The paper will begin with an introduction that establishes the human right to participate in the political process, followed by a short discussion about the right to nationality and statelessness. This discussion will highlight the juxtaposition of the right to a nationality, the concept of statelessness, and the space law principle of non-appropriation as it pertains to long-term space inhabitants. The conclusion will look to succinctly summarize the material and provide suggestions for best practices moving forward to avoid any unnecessary infringements on participatory rights and the right to nationality.