

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
International cooperation on the way to the Moon and Mars (2)

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ARTEMIS ACCORDS; CONTEXT, RISKS AND THEIR RELATION TO THE MOON AGREEMENT

Abstract

This paper addresses the newly negotiated Artemis Accords, which set the legal basis for the Artemis Project initiated by NASA. The purpose of the author is to analyze the critical aspects of this Agreement as well as its legal nature and mostly the Section titled as “Deconfliction of Space Activities”, indicating much controversial points. Given that this Agreement is provided by the US as a regulatory regime for Moon exploitation, it will therefore be compared to the Moon Agreement, the UN Space Treaty that entered into force in 1984 and sought to serve as a framework for the exploration and use of the Moon and other celestial bodies. After having reviewed the US Executive Order of April 2020, focus will be given to the provisions of the Artemis Accords and, specifically, the critique and the interpretations given to the “safety zones” practice. Afterwards, the author will underline the similarities and the differences between the Artemis Accords and the Moon Agreement, concluding with the reactions to the Accords by space faring nations of the international community.