

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

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GOVERNANCE OF SPACE RESOURCES: EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME
FOR SUSTAINABLE SPACE RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Abstract

The working paper addresses the global governance of space resources and its various initiatives to fill regulatory gaps and assure exploitation is conducted in a peaceful and sustainable manner. The purpose of the research is to analyze if the current governance scenario is designing a new international regime, with specific principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures to promote coordination and cooperation between all actors interested in the exploitation of space resources and more adequately deal with present and future challenges. For this purpose, from a perspective of the theory of international regimes, the paper approaches international and governmental initiatives, such as rule making at UN COPUOS, national legislations and the Artemis Accords, as well as multi-stakeholder fora, like The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group and the Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities (GEGSLA). In conclusion, the research identifies there is a general recognition of principles of space law and congruencies that can give rise to an international regime for the exploitation of space resources, establishing institutions based on converging expectations and contributing to the long-term sustainability of those activities. The research methodology is bibliographic, with qualitative analysis and the deductive method is applied.