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Political, Legal, Institutional and Economic Aspects of Space Debris Mitigation and Removal - STM
Security (8-E9.1)

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GLOBAL SURVEY OF TRENDS IN NATIONAL SPACETRAFFIC MANAGEMENT LEGAL AND
POLICYREGIMES

Abstract

Recent years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of satellites being deployed in low-Earth orbit. This increase in activity, alongside existing orbital debris, has raised concerns regarding the sustainability of the orbital operating environment. The United Nations acknowledged Space Traffic Management (STM) as a major concern for safe space operations and implemented multiple efforts, both completed and ongoing; the resultant Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities are non-binding for signatories, but many nations, agencies, companies, and organizations have acknowledged and augmented them via laws, regulations, policies, and standards to guide responsible and safe space behavior. The level of development for these national STM regimes varies vastly from nation to nation, however.

This analysis surveys national STM regimes and evaluates trends that have emerged in their development, structure, and content. Special attention is paid to areas where nations have formalized bilateral and multilateral cooperation. This paper presents a comprehensive analysis and summary of the global regulatory elements of STM.