*Abstract*

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**The Role of Norms and Transparency and Confidence-Building in Space Governance**

Governance of the use of space, both at the national and international levels, is complicated because of the physical realities of the space environment; the fact that space is a global resource; and the legal status of space that forbids sovereignty. There are a number of factors piquing increased risks to safe and secure space activities: increased geopolitical tensions among major space-faring powers; technical advancements lowering barriers to entry and enabling new dual-use capabilities; increased numbers of commercial players with different priorities and less reliance on national government support; the entrance of many new, and less skilled, government actors; continued proliferation of debris; and new types f space activities that fall between current legal and regulatory regimes. Because most countries in the world have exhibited an allergy over the last 30 years to legally binding commitments in space (as in many other arenas affecting national security) ongoing multilateral work on space governance has concentrated primarily on voluntary measures. This is not necessarily a bad thing: voluntary measures -- whether created by “top down” negotiations among governments; “bottom up” initiatives focusing on best practices; or industry-led standards setting – can usually be agreed and implemented more quickly that international legally binding measures. This paper reviews the two most salient of these initiatives – the 2013 normative recommendations of the U.N. Group of Governmental Expert (GGE) and the guidelines for best practices agreed by the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. These two initiatives represent slightly different approaches, in that the GGE was a “top-down” focused on transparency and confidence-building to avoid conflict among states, whereas the LTS Working Group was tasked with recommending “bottom up” approaches for safe and sustainable practices with regard to the use of space. This review also elucidates ways to forward the progress made in these multilateral negotiations: looking at how states can best implement the recommendations such as expanding registration of satellites under the UN Registry to include more data about a spacecraft’s orbit and movements. It also looks to identify additional steps for establishing a foundational space governance framework, including institutionalizing the UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines; establishing an international space situational awareness database; developing national and international approaches to space traffic management including active debris removal; and re-thinking national obligations regarding military activities.