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Abstract

The increased commercial competition in space, the orbital space debris problem and the rise of so-called 'Space Forces' has raised concerns about conflicts in space. This paper provides a brief and non-exhaustive overview of various organisations and initiatives to further space cooperation. Such initiatives are increasingly important and include activities within the UN System as well as by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Support for these initiatives and strengthening of their collaborative efforts may be critical to the future. Efforts from within the UN system include work related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, UNCOPUOS, ITU, WMO, ICAO, the World Bank, and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). Efforts from NGO's include the work of Secure World Foundation, For All Moonkind, the World Economic Forum, the preparers of the Space Security Index, the international Milamos effort, The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group, and others. The question is whether these efforts are sufficient and sufficiently integrated, and if not, what more can be done to tie these diverse efforts together to promote better collaboration in space.

A short bio

Tanja Masson-Zwaan is Assistant Professor and Deputy Director of the International Institute of Air and Space Law at Leiden University, and President Emerita of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL). She is adjunct faculty at International Space University (ISU). Tanja advises the Dutch Government on space law issues and was co-founder of The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group. She is an elected full member of various professional associations, such as the International Academy of Astronautics, the International Law Association, and the Académie de l'Air et de l'Espace. Tanja is a Board member of several organisations, including the ASU Interplanetary Initiative, Open Lunar Foundation and Space Generation Advisory Council. She was a Member of the Founding Boards of the European Centre for Space Law and of Women in Aerospace Europe and served as member of the Advisory Committee of Secure World Foundation.