China’s Concept and Practices on Global Governance of Outer Space

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1. Backgrounds

2. The Principle of Cooperation and sharing and China’s practices

3. The Principle of developing for peaceful purpose and China’s practices

4. The Principle of law-based governance and China’s practices
1. Background

- Completion and operation of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System
- Conclusion of the last step of the three-step lunar exploration program
- Completion of the first stages in building the space station
- Tianwen 1 exploration of Mars

As one of the space powers and responsible great power, China shall be responsible for improving and promoting the regime of Global governance of outer space.
Mankind live on the same Earth, and increasingly find ourselves in a community of shared future.

--President Xi Jinping delivers speech in Moscow State Institute of International Relations

In the next five years, The space industry will contribute more to build a community for shared future in outer space.

--China’s Space Program: A 2021 Perspective

Global governance of outer space shall be guided by the philosophy of a community with shared future in outer space.
1. Backgrounds

A Community with a Shared Future for Mankind:

**Target:**
building an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

**Approach:**
Solving global threats and carrying out shared values in a global society through Win-win international cooperation.

The Philosophy in outer space should include three principles: cooperation and sharing, developing for peaceful purpose, law-based governance.
2. China’s concept and practices on Cooperation and sharing

China always combines independence and self-reliance with opening to the outside world. It actively engages in high-level international exchanges and cooperation, and expands global public services for space technology and products. It takes an active part in solving major challenges facing humanity, helps to realize the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and facilitates global consensus and common effort with regard to outer space exploration and utilization.

Key Words:

**Extensive Consultation**: Democratic legislation on outer space activities.

**Joint Contribution**: Work together to solve global crisis on outer space.

**Shared Benefits**: Expand global public services for space technology and products.
2. China’s concept and practices on Cooperation and sharing

- BDS provides open, free satellite navigation services, and its ability to serve the public across the world is being constantly improved.

- China's space station is the first project of its kind that is open to all UN member states.

- China has provided data from China’s meteorological satellites for 121 countries and regions.

- China has provided satellite remote-sensing data for 40 countries.

China carried out the concept on shared benefits in exploration and use of outer space.
2. China’s concept and practices on Cooperation and sharing

International rules can only be made by the 193 UN Member States together, and not decided by individual countries or blocs of countries.

International rules should be observed by the 193 UN Member States, and there is and should be no exception.

---President Xijinping

China participated in and worked together with other countries formulating international rules regarding outer space:

- China participates in consultations on issues such as the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, the development and utilization of space resources, and the prevention of arms race in outer space.
- China supports the activities of international organizations such as the ITU, IADC, Group on Earth Observations, Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems, International Space Exploration Coordination Group, and the Interagency Operations Advisory Group.

China insisted on the principle of extensive consultation to promote law-making on outer space.
2. China’s concept and practices on Cooperation and sharing

- China participated in IADC\UNOOSA and work together to solve space debris.

- China has strengthened international exchanges on space debris through mechanisms such as the Space Debris Work Group of China-Russia Space Cooperation Sub-committee and the Sino-US Expert Workshop on Space Debris and Space Flight Safety.

- China participated in CD and promoted the prevention of arms race in outer space.

- China promoted PPWT in CD.

China uphold the concept of joint contribution to solve space debris, weaponization in outer space and so on.
3. China’s concept and practices on developing for peaceful purpose

China has always advocated the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and opposes any attempt to turn outer space into a weapon or battlefield or launch an arms race in outer space.

➢ Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Space Objects:
  • prohibits the deployment of weapons of any kind in space, and the use or threat of force against space objects;

➢ Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space:
  • take urgent measures to prevent for all time the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force in outer space, from space against Earth and from Earth against objects in outer space.

➢ Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors.
There is only one system in the world, i.e., the UN-centered international system; only one order, i.e., the international order based on international law; and only one set of rules, i.e., the basic norms of international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

4. China’s concept and practices on law-based governance

- Law-based governance ≠ Rule-based order

- Outer Space Treaty:
  States Parties to the Treaty shall carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

- Reducing Space Threats through Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible Behaviours:
  Affirms that all States must conduct their activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in conformity with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.
4. China’s concept and practices on law-based governance

➢ Take measures to mitigate space debris.
➢ Actively participated in formulating ITU standards and international rules regarding outer space
➢ Supported the development of relevant mechanisms on:
  • space environment governance,
  • near-earth objects monitoring and response,
  • planet protection,
  • space traffic management,
  • the development and utilization of space resources.

China has developed space activities under international law and international custom.
China has promoted law-based governance of the space industry through establishment of space legal system.
➢ China advocated global governance of outer space should be guided by the philosophy on a community with shared future for mankind. The philosophy includes three aspects.

➢ The philosophy requires global governance of outer space should adhere to the principle of cooperation and sharing, the principle of developing for peaceful purpose, and the principle of law-based governance.

➢ China has carried out the principles through strengthening international exchanges and cooperation on space science, technology and application; working together with the international community to provide public products and services; strengthening national space law-based governance.
Thank you for your listening!