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International space law as a mediator between space science and sustainable development

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Space science is a doorway which asserts the man's entry into outer space. It is a depiction of the common interest of the mankind in the progress of exploration and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. A definition of 'space' can be created in different ways. In the fundamental sense, space is a 'geographical location which entails no sovereignty or governments and a place to perform research. 'International Space Law' interferes in the issue of development of space science and the implications arisen from the scientific advancement. In one perspective, space creates a bundle of rights to the world nation. The bundle includes right to access and use space, right to carry out commercial transactions in space etc. The paper discusses the International space law which has basically emerged through the Treaties implemented by United Nations. The international treaties contain fundamental principles in relation to the scientific facet of space. It is general perception, that space is a 'province of mankind'. Nation in the world as a whole is bound by the international cooperation, in relation to the matters connected with the space. All nations on the earth have the freedom of scientific investigation, exploration and there is an encouragement among the international community to share the results of scientific findings. It creates a state liability. The state liability which the International Law recognizes is defined as an instance where the 'states are responsible for the actions of the citizens in space. The liability imposed on a state by the law further emphasizes on sustainable development on a legal basis. Simply, it denotes the maintaining a balance between the development on economic and scientific grounds and the environmental protection including the natural resources. States are obliged to protect the fragile environments in space from the scientific equipment and not to engage in military actions involving nuclear weapons. The study is normative in nature, adopts the desk research method and the author discusses the sources of International Law on space predominantly Treaty on principles governing the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space including Moon and other celestial bodies.

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