

**THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS IN SHAPING SPACE
LAW: AN EXAMINATION IN THE LIGHT OF PROPOSED LEGAL
FRAMEWORKS ON SPACE MINING**

M. E. BURGER

*Ankara University, Faculty of Law, Ankara, Turkey
E-mail: merverdemburger@hotmail.com*

Abstract: In the classical structure of International Law, States were the main actors for the law-making process and the implementation of international law. Through years non-governmental actors specifically non-governmental organizations have started to engage with international matters such as the drafting of an international treaty; they participate in the activities of the human rights' supervisory bodies, as well as cooperate with international organizations, to influence their decision making.

At the international level, the United Nations (UN) has been the pioneer organization in cooperation with the non-state actors. This policy of the UN is also reflected in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), and now more than 40 non-governmental actors are granted the observatory status before the Committee.

As an example of the role of non-state actors in shaping space law, I will especially focus on the activities of the non-governmental organizations and non-governmental initiatives, which work on the legal framework, principles, and recommendations concerning the designation of international principles regarding the management of space resources/space mining. Even though these documents are not binding, they are presented to civil society as well as to the UNCOPOUS to encourage the discussions on a future legal instrument concerning the matter.

Consequently, giving a floor to the non-state actors at the meetings of the Sub-Committees and the Committee reveals their contribution to shaping space law, since the Committee has a vital role in the creation of international rules and guidelines on space activities.

Presentation link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbLZZQS2otU>