

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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SPACE COMMERCIALISATION AND SPACE SUSTAINABILITY: A SOFTENING OF SPACE LAW?

Law and Nature Dialogue
Webinar Series

Prof. Zhao Yun | 21 March 2022, 1pm (AEDT/Sydney time)

Session Chair : Associate Professor Nengye Liu

The five space treaties ensured smooth development of space activities for more than five decades. Given, however, the ongoing process of space commercialization and privatization, these treaties have failed to sufficiently address the new legal issues arising from private and commercial space activities. One pressing issue is the space environment and space debris mitigation. In view of the difficulties in concluding new space treaties, international society relies on the adoption of soft law documents, calling for international cooperation in space activities. This is exemplified by the adoption of documents on space debris mitigation and long-term space sustainability. The development of space law is more diversified with the ongoing space commercialization process; softening of space law is an ongoing trend in view of the diversifying national interests in space activities.



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Prof. Yun ZHAO is Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and Head of Department of Law at the University of Hong Kong (HKU); PhD (Erasmus University Rotterdam); LLM (Leiden University); LLM & LLB (China University of Political Science and Law). Prof. Zhao is currently Representative of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH); Standing Council Member of Chinese Society of International Law and Council Member of Chinese Law Society; Chair Professor at Xiamen University (2020-2023). He is listed as arbitrator in several international arbitration commissions. He has published widely on various topics including particularly Dispute Resolution and Space Law.

