

nuclear explosion, at any place under its jurisdiction or control;

(a) in the atmosphere; beyond its limits, including outer space;...

2. Each of the Parties to this Treaty undertakes furthermore to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in, the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion, or any other nuclear explosion anywhere which would take place in any of the environments described, or have the effect referred to, in paragraph 1 of this Article.

iv) Outer Space Treaty (1967)

The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>15</sup> commonly known as the Outer Space Treaty, is regarded as the cornerstone international space law convention. As is evident from its full title, the Treaty establishes a basic legal framework for general space exploration and utilization. Moreover, it marks an important step in controlling certain, though not all, arms in outer space.

Being the first international convention directly relating to an environment regulated by, at best, nebulous customary international law principles, its significance cannot be overestimated. Its adoption brought about substantive changes in the legal regime of outer space. What before had merely been a set of non-binding guidelines now became legal obligations.

Since the Treaty holds a central position within the legal framework governing all activities carried out in space, it is necessary to examine its provisions closely. Three general themes emerge from such an examination: freedom of exploration and use, peaceful use and cooperation and international responsibility of states for their activities in outer space.

In the operative part of the Treaty, Article I reiterates the primary interests of the international community:

The exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests