

acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest".

States are also inter alia obligated to settle disputes peacefully and refrain from the threat or use of force under Article 2:

The Organization and its members, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles.

1. The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.
2. All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.
3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.
4. All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations....

Such obligations would seem to apply also to the activities of states in outer space, especially in view of the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty and other treaties mentioned above.

An important proviso to these obligations under the Charter is contained in Article 51 which states:

Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect