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Chinese National Legislation to Control Space Debris and Its Way Forward

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- 1. Legislation Hierarchy in China
- 2. Chinese Legislation to Control Space Debris Before 2010
- 3. Current Efforts to Control Space Debris in China
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1. Legislation Hierarchy in China

- (1) Constitution (National People's Congress)
- (2) Basic Laws (National People's Congress)
- (3) Other Laws (Standing Committee, NPC)
- (4) Administrative Regulations (State Council)
- (5) Department Rules (Ministries or Commissions, SC)
- (6) Local Regulations (Local People's Congress)
- (7) Local Rules (Bureaus or Commissions, Local Administration)



2. Chinese Legislation to Control Space Debris Before 2010

- So far, there has not been a comprehensive law to regulate its space activities in China.
- However, before 2010, two *Department Rules* in China were enacted to address specific issues in its space activities. Some provisions in these *Department Rules* show the efforts to control and manage space debris.



- These two *Department Rules* are as follows:
- *Procedure of Space Objects Registration and Management* (Order No. 6 of the Commission of Science, Technology, and Industry for National Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 8 February 2001)
- *Interim Procedure of Licensing Civil Space Launch Programs* (Order No. 12 of the Commission of Science, Technology, and Industry for National Defense, 21 November 2002)



- (1) Procedure of Space Objects Registration and Management
- *Important Provisions:*
- ——Organ in charge of registration (COSTIND)
- ——Modification registration (disintegration of space objects, etc.)
- *Significance:*
- ——Facilitating relevant organs to know the information about space debris



- (2) Interim Procedure of Licensing Civil Space Launch Programs
- *Important Provisions:*
- ——Article 6 (application documents)
- supplementary documents on how to avoid pollution and space debris.
- *Significance:*
- ——First prescribing how to avoid space debris in launch phase



3. Current Efforts to Control Space Debris

- (1) In 2008, COSTIND to State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (*SASTIND*, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology)
- (2) In 2010, a new department rule entered into force.
- (3) *Interim Procedure of Space Debris Management and Mitigation* (*SASTIND*, 15 provisions)



- (4) Important Provisions:
- *Article 1 Purpose*
- ——Generally, this instrument aims to guarantee the normal operation of spacecraft and to protect the space environment.
- ——Particularly, it does mention that this instrument also aims to implement international obligation to control and mitigate space debris.



- *Article 2 Definition of Space Debris*
- ——Almost the same as the one in IADC Guidelines.
- ——Space debris are all man-made objects including fragments and elements thereof, in Earth orbit or re-entering the atmosphere, that are non-functional.
- ——More examples in the definition: non-functional satellites, last stage of rockets.



- *Article 4 Organ in charge of space debris arising from civil spacecraft*
- ——SASTIND
- ——Particularly, it mentions that SASTIND has the authority to supervise the implementation of space debris mitigation and management and to coordinate the implementation of IADC Guidelines.



- *Article 5 Joint Working Mechanism*
- ——SASTIND will establish a joint working mechanism with relevant ministries to coordinate the space debris mitigation and management.



4. Chinese Possible Efforts Regarding Removal of Space Debris

- First, revise *Interim Procedure of Space Debris Management and Mitigation*.
- Second, put the idea of *REMEDIATION* to future *Chinese White Paper on Space Activities*.
- Last but not least, law follows the technology.



■ *Thank you!*