

Chapter 21

Dawn of Cosmopolitan Order? The New Norm of Responsibility to Defend Earth and the Planetary Council



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Cosmopolitanism without provincialism is empty and provincialism without cosmopolitanism is blind.

–Ulrich Beck

21.1 Introduction

Generally, the planetary defense community and national delegates that meet every year at the UN COPUOS are skeptical towards the establishment of any cosmopolitan-like authority anytime soon. This is understandable, as they are part of the current governance mode consisting of a system of nation-states rather than its opposition. In contrast, every student group at any space conference these two authors have attended in the last few years that was given the task of solving space-oriented global problems such as orbital debris, coronal mass ejections, or asteroid threat, tended to come up with the ‘obvious solution’ of establishing a global authority. The proposal is usually driven both by a rational engineering logic of effectiveness and a sense of cooperation for the sake of human knowledge about deep space and our role in it. The magical essence of space community and its passion to explore, understand and go beyond frontiers is hardly comparable to any other epistemic community in the world, which is giving it specific power for a fundamental change.

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315