Part One: Exploration
Chapter 1

Dispute Settlement in International Space Law

International law is inextricably connected to dispute settlement. The law provides the rules and justification for dispute settlement where prophylactic propositions flounder. International law stands apart from the international politics of power in these situations in two ways. First, it does not merely settle the dispute based on the relations of the parties \textit{inter se}. Second, it supplies a logical norm that is endorsed by those whose conduct it governs. The settlement of the dispute aims to reconcile the relations and interests of the parties involved, while serving the ends of justice and fairness. Individual disputes may be decided using a plethora of differing mechanisms.

The exploration and use of outer space introduces many novel opportunities and dilemmas, and inspired insights are needed in the development of this new resource.\textsuperscript{1} In particular, the settlement of space law disputes is a relatively new discussion in international law. Space law itself is still an embryonic domain of international law, and much energy has been directed to the substantive, as opposed to the procedural, part of the law. However, the significance of the settlement of space law disputes was acknowledged in various colloquia organized by legal academicians and practitioners around the world.

In the earlier exploratory phase of space activities, conflicting ideas in international space law signified only an abstract disagreement on legal principles. This did not impact significantly on actors’ practical interests and the actual application of these legal principles. Disputes were more of an academic character. This situation will change with the burgeoning use of outer space and the escalating number of State and non-State actors involved in space activities. Disputes on diverse characteristics of space law cannot be left unresolved, permitting each actor to persist and act according to its own perspectives.