**Reacting to Near-Earth Object Impact: Exceptional Circomstances Justifying Non-Compliance with International law**

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States must act in accordance with international law, and in case of violation of international nomes, such results in an obligation to answer internationally for the violation. This rule also applies to space activities, including planetary defence operations, which must be conducted in accordance with international law, according to Article III of the Outer Space Treaty. However, State responsibility law admits that there may be circumstances in which compliance with international law is not possible. The International Law Commission in its 2001 Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts introduce some rules that can excuse or justify non compliance by States with their international obligations. The paper examines the circumstances of consent, distress and necessity, as potentially relevant to exclude the wrongfulness of planetary defence methods. Thus, if the risk of impact with an asteroid is more than likely, measures take by States may be justified and not regarded as being wrongful given the particular circumstances. However, the paper highlights that even though a NEO impact constitutes a threat to an essential interest that can outpace any other considerations and that can only be properly addressed by a specific planetary defence method, this situation may be altered by the advent of new facts. In such cases, it would no longer be possible to consider the application of such methods as not being wrongful conduct if additional information on potential negative effects of deploying the intended planetary defence method become known or other relevant information become available. Lastly, the paper stresses that in case of dispute between States with regard to the conduct of a planetary defence missions, for example with regard to its lawfulness, the dispute is to be settled by peaceful means.