



Background Paper

Committee: United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Topic: Addressing Security Concerns, And Prevention Of Space-Based Anti-Satellite Weapon Testing.

Chairs: Alicia Nevarez Meraz and Aileen del Rosario Ramirez Garcia

Space-based technologies have become critical to daily life and national security by the fact that diverse countries are taking advantage of outer space. Even though outer space can not be seen at a glance, thousands of satellites and other technologies are currently orbiting around in space that help us accomplish many big and small tasks on a daily life basis. The world has become dependent on space and addressing these concerns is a Topic of increased importance, since it is vital.

At this exact moment, there are thousands of satellites orbiting the Earth for commercial, civil, strategic, and military reasons. Satellites are crucial for national security. This can come with disagreements, for example: countries are beginning conflicts as countries begin to take over territory in space, and want to invade areas that do not belong to them. Countries have developed anti-satellite weapons that can be used to incapacitate or destroy satellites in orbit, others use non-destructive weapons like cyberattacks or lasers to impair satellites. Rival nations have developed anti-satellite weapons to knock out each other's satellites as the battle for space grows tenser.

The destructive types often rely on Anti-satellite weapons (ASAT), which create high-speed physical collisions to shatter satellites, most of the time creating negative repercussions for the space environment. According to "The Interpreter", "The use of ASAT could come with negative persecutions and could cause long-term, severe, and widespread damage to the space environment and society." Causing major-power rivalry turning outer space into a battlefield. It could cause damage to the environment for example: climate change, carbon footprint global warming, space debris, air pollution, water, soil, and marine pollution, and in the worst case scenario, can trigger Kessler syndrome.

Until now, seven countries have committed formally to a U.S.-led initiative to ban destructive direct-ascent, kinetic-energy ASAT weapons testing. Today, no law or rule prohibits the destruction of one's satellites while testing anti-satellite weapons. However, given the analysis above regarding 'fault', if debris from an ASAT test were to strike another space object, a party might be held liable if it can be shown that the conduct of a state did not rise to the level of "best efforts (ORF)".

According to our sources, " Outer space is crucial due to its role like potential resource opportunities, contributions to scientific knowledge, technological advancements, and the inspiration it provides for human exploration and innovation. Peace and order in outer space are vital for our community.

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Topic B: Explore Strategies To Ensure Equitable Distribution Of Lunar And Asteroid Resources Among Nations

Chairs: Alicia Nevarez Meraz and Aileen del Rosario Ramirez Garcia

The exploration and potential exploitation of lunar and asteroid resources represent an important step in shaping a new future, but they also raise questions about equitable distribution among nations. As nations need to go on missions for resource extraction, the need for comprehensive strategies to ensure fairness and prevent geopolitical conflicts becomes predominant. The historical context involves the evolution of space exploration from a Cold War race to collaborative international efforts. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 sets the agreement for the peaceful use of outer space, but it doesn't specify allocation, in need of a framework of equitable distribution. This topic should be addressed since many advancements will be made such as the support advancements in space mining technologies, the Moon and asteroids present vast opportunities for resource extraction. The lack of a clear framework for equitable distribution could lead to resource monopolies, exacerbating global economic disparities and geopolitical conflicts.

Space agencies and private entities are actively executing missions for resource extraction. However, the absence of universally accepted guidelines may lead to competition over who gets what in terms of location and resources, potentially creating conflicts and as a result an uneven distribution of benefits. There have been some steps to start, including the establishment of the Artemis Accords by NASA. These accords set principles for lunar

exploration, emphasizing transparency and peaceful cooperation but lacking comprehensive resource distribution guidelines. Existing international space treaties, like the Outer Space Treaty, provide a foundation for peaceful exploration but need more specificity on resource allocation. Private sector initiatives, led by companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin, underscore the need for international guidelines. Moving forward, possibilities include the establishment of an international regulatory body, diplomatic collaboration, technology sharing, public-private partnerships, environmental considerations, and research initiatives to promote informed discourse and cooperation on this critical global challenge.

Strategies to successfully distribute extraterrestrial resources include encouraging nations to collaborate on space exploration by sharing resources, knowledge, and technologies and prioritizing sustainable practices to minimize environmental impact.

To succeed in the debate the nations should focus on creating a comprehensive, international agreement addressing property rights, environmental concerns, and fair access to resources and it should emphasize the need for transparency, and sustainable practices to ensure that the benefits of space resources utilization are shared equitably among all nations, creating a cooperative and peaceful era of extraterrestrial exploration.

Exploring strategies for equitable distribution of lunar and asteroid resources is fundamental to allow a future with technological advancements, space-based manufacturing, interplanetary colonization, abundant and diverse resources, space exploration support, and economic opportunities.

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