

5TH ANNUAL
CBA MIDDLE SCHOOL
MODEL UN

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SECRETARIAT GENERAL.....WILLIAM WALSH, BRYAN SOLER
CRISIS DIRECTOR.....DANIEL TREVAL



DISEC

TOPIC 1.....SPACE COLONIZATION
TOPIC 2.....SPACE MILITARIZATION

CHAIR.....JOHN MEMON
CO-CHAIR.....MATTHEW MOJARES
RAPPORTEUR.....ARTY BAKER

Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Fifth Annual Christian Brothers Academy Model United Nations Conference! We are John Memon, Matt Mojares, and Arty Baker, your Chair, Co-Chair, and Rapporteur. We hope that you are ready to delve into a topic that will be incredibly important in the future. We will explore different methods and ideologies regarding the militarization and colonization of space.

The following information is a brief overview of the topics and information that surround our committee. Although the guide gives some history, extra research and preparation is needed. We can not wait to see all of you in November. We hope that you will have a great time and will want to continue Model UN through high school and beyond. If you have any questions regarding committee procedure or your nation's role, feel free to email any of us.

Sincerely,

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International Space Station (Photo Credit: NASA)

Background

Colonization

Challenges

There are several important problems that stand in the way of colonization. There are medical problems posed by low amounts of gravity and the high levels of radiation to which the astronauts would be exposed to after leaving Earth's atmosphere. It would also take an enormous amount of money and supplies to transport a place to live and several people off of Earth for a long enough period of time to establish any sort of settlement. The large investment required to reach space had posed an obstacle to less developed and smaller nations. Without the robust scientific and industrial infrastructure possessed by larger, more developed nations, they currently struggle to reach space on their own. Recently, companies like space-x have presented an opening to space for smaller nations through purchasable space on rockets. Space-x sells space on rockets for satellites, allowing smaller nations to overcome the obstacles of research and development. These companies also centralize the power held to a small number of companies from a small number of nations.

Delegates should consider what is more important: immediate access to space now, or long term independent access to space non- reliant on other nations and companies. There would also probably be a significant period of time where the colonists would not be self-sufficient and people from Earth would have to continue to send supplies. These problems are only a few of the many that face space colonization.

Motivations

Colonists could take advantage of the abundant raw materials, limitless amounts of solar power, vacuum, and microgravity in other ways to manufacture products that we could not otherwise create while inside Earth's atmosphere and gravity. Additionally, we could potentially replace our current Earth-polluting industries, and these colonies may also help our environment in other ways. Since the colonists would inhabit completely remote manmade environments, they could refine our knowledge of the Earth's ecology. With our planet's rising population competing for space and resources, some people are convinced we need to go beyond Earth's boundaries in order to ensure humanity's survival.

Law

Space law is the body of law governing space-related activities. Space law comprises a multitude of international agreements and treaties. Additionally, it includes United Nations General Assembly resolutions as well as the rules and regulations that govern international organizations. Space law is most often related with the rules and regulations of international law appearing in the five international treaties and five sets of principles governing outer space. Furthermore, many countries have national legislation governing specific space-related activities. Space law addresses a variety of problems, such as, the preservation of space and Earth environment, liability for damages caused by objects in space, the use of technology as it pertains to space-relates systems, and international cooperation. A number of rudimentary principles help guide the conduct of space activities. Examples include, the notion that space is a province for all of mankind and the freedom to utilize space. It could be argued that too much legislation would choke the potential that usage of space offers. However, it's very likely that no legislation would result in some problems, so some

legislation would be necessary to keep things in check. There is the question, where the balance between too much and too little lies. Delegates should consider how the international community should decide who owns what in space. How can the international community both ensure that there is enough incentive to explore space, and that efforts are made to gather these resources, while still protecting enough resources for other nations to gather at later times. This is for countries that currently can not reach space on their own. How can delegates make sure that they get the most for their country?

Access for Developing States

Many developing states do not have the money to build up sufficient space programs that can actually send people into space. In an effort to give some of these nations an opportunity to explore space and perform experiments, China signed an agreement with the United Nations in July of 2016 that would put foreign, non-Chinese astronauts into their training programs and let them aboard the space station that the Chinese plan to build. Other states have purchased space aboard US commercial rockets, such as Space-X and the United Launch Alliance (Boeing and Lockheed Martin). Developing states have generally partnered with more developed nations, opposed to spending billions to develop their own programs.

Militarization

The Outer Space Treaty (1967)

The Outer Space Treaty bans the stationing of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in outer space, outlines legally binding rules governing the space exploration and use of their resources, and prohibits military activities on celestial bodies. Many countries desire additional outer space agreements because of concerns about the U.S. missile defense and space policy. In February 2008, Russia and China submitted a draft treaty, which has failed for several years to achieve the necessary agreement to start negotiations on an outer space treaty. However, the United States argued that such a settlement would be too difficult to establish and that no additional outer space treaties are needed because there is currently no military arms race in outer space.

Currently, the main benefit of militarizing space for certain nations would be to Pre-position missile interceptors to intercept and destroy enemy missiles. The United States has expressed interest in positioning interceptors in space in the past, but currently does not. The United States would argue that interceptors would help in controlling what they consider to be rogue states such as Iran or North Korea. Others would argue that it is not necessary to militarize space. Delegates must consider the benefits and drawbacks of militarization respective to their nation.

Current State of Affairs

Hundreds of satellites orbit the Earth and they are used for a wide variety of purposes. They are used for GPS, intelligence gathering, scientific research, communication, and many other things. Space debris is a significant concern right now. If people let it continue to pile up it would make launches impossible. So currently, a common goal among nations is to get rid of debris in space. Space is also already militarized as there are satellites that are used for military purposes, but a major debate that will occur is what to do about space weaponization. Many scientific instruments could be used as weapons. For example, a missile launcher that launches missiles into space that might gather data for scientists could also be used to launch missiles into space that would be used as weapons. While weaponizing space might initially seem like a bad idea, it could enable countries to protect themselves far more effectively, it would also allow countries to attack each other far more easily. There are clear ups and downs of space weaponization.

A Note on Representatives

Space Agencies of non-states (EU, Africa, Pan-Arabian etc. will not vote, but rather work with their member states and participate as usual. They may write resolutions, however they must be sponsored and signoried by actual UN member states.

Questions to Consider

1. What is the current state of your country's space program?
2. How advanced is your country's space program?
3. What is your country's position on Colonization of space?
4. What are the positions of your country/ country's allies on the issue of space colonization?
5. What is your country's position on disarmament, both in general and in outer space? Has it signed and ratified the Outer Space Treaty? Why or why not?

6. How much does your country spend on the military, and what kind of weapons does it have? In what military conflicts is it currently involved?
6. Would your nation benefit or suffer if weapons were placed in space?

Resources

<https://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/hqlibrary/pathfinders/colony.htm>

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/introouterspacetreaty.html>

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/benefits-of-space/human-settlements.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20141002-time-to-plan-a-space-colony>

<http://futurehumanevolution.com/space-colonization-future-human-habitats>

Good Luck Researching!