

Forum:	General Assembly 4 (SPECPOL)
Issue:	International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Chair:	Darren Tsang and Jasper Chang

Introduction

From the beginning of space exploration, the peaceful uses of shared outer space was an issue. Nations around the world has tried to probe and examine the different planets around us, starting with countries such as the USSR and USA, pioneers to space exploration, have participated in the exploration and research on outer space. In 1957, the world's first artificial satellite was launched by the USSR. Approximately one decade later in 1969, USA launched the first humans to the moon, marking a new era in human history and space exploration. Throughout the course of us studying the space, the UNOOSA office was established. As advances in the field are being made by the day, ensuring the peacefulness of these new territories needed to be reaffirmed. Hence the creation of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). On October 10th, 1967, the space law was drafted and established, this is an agreement of laws, treaties that helped govern outer space, and the peaceful uses of outer space. These treaties have sustained over recent decades, contributing peace in this field. However, as new advances in this field such as the exploration of Mars, and threats such as detection of Near Earth Objects (NEOs) are made or found, ensuring peaceful usage of space has been posing to be challenging.

Definition of Key Terms

Outer Space

Space immediately outside the earth's atmosphere.

UNOOSA

The office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

COPUOS

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The International Space Law

The principles and standards of international law appearing in the five international treaties and five sets of principles governing outer space which have been developed under the auspices of the United Nations.

Peaceful

Untroubled by conflict, agitation, or commotion; Devoid of violence or force

Near-Earth objects (NEOs)

Any small Solar System body whose orbit brings it to proximity with Earth.

Space debris

Debris from the mass of defunct, artificially created objects in space, especially Earth orbit.

Background Information

COPUOS

COPOUS, or the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is established in 1959 by the United Nation General Assembly to review and foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and to consider legal issues from the exploration of Outer Space.

The International Space Law

Throughout six decades, the committee has passed numerous resolutions and treaties on the fair usage of outer space and space exploration. Most resolutions/treaties passed focuses on the cooperation of member nations in efforts to benefit the human race. The resolutions are compiled into a single body of law governing space-related activities, encompassing both international and domestic agreements, rules, and principles, the Space Law.



Signature of the Outer Space Treaty 1967

Key Conferences

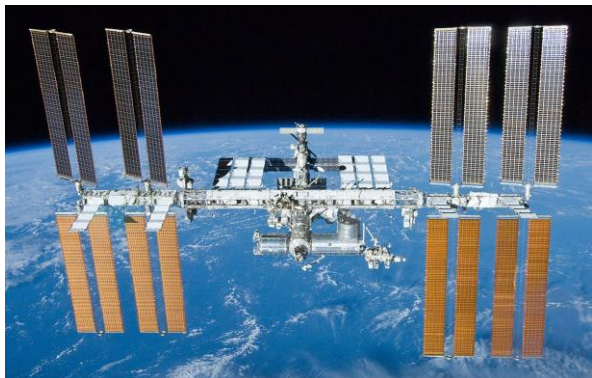
At its session in 1996, a symposium on the utilizing the use of micro satellites for the expansion of low priced space activities is taken into particular account the needs of developing countries. This was organized by The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and International Astronautical Federation (IAF) to complement discussions on this theme.



The COPUOS Logo

UNISPACE

Conferences organized by the COPOUS in efforts to engage States and international organizations to further their cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Organizations, nations meet to discuss breakthroughs in space exploration, under the UN, nations are able to



cooperate with each other, benefiting human race as a whole.

The International Space Station orbiting around Earth

Threats

Some potential threats to the safety of the earth from NEOs and the prevention of the creation of space-based weapons. It is also estimated that 200 million space debris orbit around Earth and endangers the potential of space exploration.

Near Earth Objects (NEOs)

Near Earth Objects is any solar system body where its orbit brings it into proximity with Earth. In definition, a solar system body is a NEO if its closest approach to the Sun is less than 1.3 astronomical unit (AU). NEOs include more than fifteen thousand near Earth asteroids (NEAs) and more than a hundred near Earth Comets (NECs).

Space Debris

Space debris or space junk are tracked as they orbit the Earth. They are fast enough for a relatively small debris to damage a spacecraft or satellite. Space debris encompasses both natural and artificial particles. Meteorites are in orbit about the sun, while artificial debris is in orbit about the Earth, where the artificial debris are man made object which no longer serves a useful function such as fragmentation debris, non functional spacecraft, or abandoned launch vehicle stages.

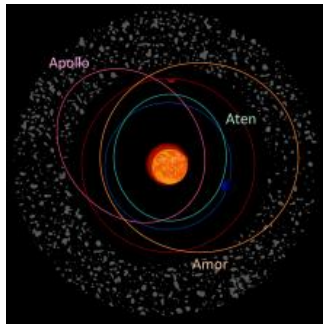


Chart of Near Earth Objects

Peaceful uses of outer space

The phrase of “Peaceful Uses of Outer space” appears in government statements and treaties, however, the examination of state practice leads to the conclusion that this term has no authoritative definition, therefore there is a source of confusion, thus creating a legal grey area.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs works to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of space, and in the utilisation of space science and technology for economic and social development. This office assist any UN member states to establish and govern space activities and strengthens the developing countries to use space science technology and applications. It also serves as a secretary in the General Assembly for COPOUS, responsible of implementing the Secretary-General's responsibilities under international space law and maintaining the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

United States of America

The United States are one of the pioneers in space exploration, their successful mission “Apollo 11” marks their place in the history of space exploration, the mission made them the only nation that has sent humans to other celestial bodies to this day. After winning the cold war against the Russian Federation in 1991, the nation became one of the core members to the International Space Station (ISS), and has vision of a long term space exploration/education program of celestial bodies. The nation also is home to numerous leading non-governmental space agencies in the world.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation, formally called the USSR, was also one of the pioneers in space exploration. They launched the first artificial satellite: *Sputnik* into orbit around Earth at 1957, and was involved in the cold war with the USA, which they lost in 1991. The Russian Federation was one of the three nations that independently developed the fundamental principles of space travel and rocketry. In the last few years, the Russian Federation is cooperating with Brazil and had launched the Panoramic Electro-Optical system for detecting space debris.

China

China, a few years ago supported the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, while China has also renewed their commitment on cooperating with the UNOOSA. China is also working with NASA to collaborate on Moon exploration.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1947	Cold war between the US and the USSR starts
1951	The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) is founded
October 4th, 1957	"Sputnik-1," the first artificial satellite, was launched by USSR into Earth's orbit
December 13th, 1958	First General Assembly outer space resolution adopted; Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) established
1958	The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) was founded
May 6th, 1959	First meeting of COPUOS
December 20th, 1961	General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI)
1962	The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs was established

December 13th, 1963	First Legal Principles governing Outer Space adopted by the General Assembly
October 10th, 1967	The International Space Law was drafted
January 27th, 1967	First international treaty on outer space opened for signature
August 14th, 1968	First United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE)
July 16, 1969	Apollo 11's mission accomplished (man reaches moon)
1991	Cold War ends, with USA being the victor

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

- Question of the Peaceful Use of Outer Space, 13 December, 1958 (**RES 1348 (XIII)**)
- International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 12 December, 1959 (**Res 1472 (XIV)**)
- Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space, 13, December, 1963 (**RES 1962 (XVIII)**)
- United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 19 December, 1966 (**RES 2221 (XXI)**)
- Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies 19 December, 1966 (**RES 2222 (XXI)**)
- Postponement of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 23 May, 1967 (**RES 2250 (S-V)**)
- Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 3 November, 1967 (**RES 2260 (XXII)**)
- Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, 12 November, 1974 (**RES 3235 (XXIX)**)

- Tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 20 December, 1977 **(RES 32/195)**
- Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 5 December, 1979 **(RES 34/67)**
- Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 5 December, 1979 **(RES 34/68)**
- Prevention of an arms race in outer space, 9 December, 1981 **(RES 36/97C)**
- Fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development, 26 October, 2018, **(A/RES/73/6)**

Possible Solutions

Clarifying the usage of weapons of mass destruction in space. Through the clarification of what exactly is a weapon of mass destruction and of what these weapons have the potential to do, all nations would be able to perceive and recognize what kinds actions not to take in space. Therefore, the prohibiting of mass destruction weapons in space in efforts to further protect all nations from potential threats from outer space.

The clarification of the claiming of space territories. Territories in outer space should not be able to be claimed by any nation/nations, the claiming and coordinating of these territories should be done by non-government affiliated independent organizations under the supervision of the United Nation member nations. Member Nations do have some administration power over this organization, ensuring peace in future space exploration.

The removal of space debris in order to ensure the potential of space exploration. In efforts to ensure suture potential for space exploration, member states should collaborate in efforts to remove space debris orbiting Earth. Currently, more than 15,000 space debris orbit around Earth at approximately 17,00 miles per hour. These debris are fast enough for it to damage a satellite or a spacecraft in future missions. The collaborative effort to remove space debris can greatly reduce the infliction of sensitive equipment, enabling future space exploration to be safer.

The establishment of emergency responses to NEOs along with the support of NGOs. Near Earth Objects, or NEOs, are asteroids or comets that are within a certain radius of Earth that can pose a threat to Earth. More than 5,000 NEOs has been identified that is within orbit of Earth, as new

data are inputted, therefore, possibilities of impacts are increasing as time goes. It was never how when a NEO will hit Earth, but a question of when it will hit Earth. It will be crucial that member states collaborate in efforts to have a system of emergency responses toward these NEOS, in efforts for the safety of the human race and future space exploration.

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