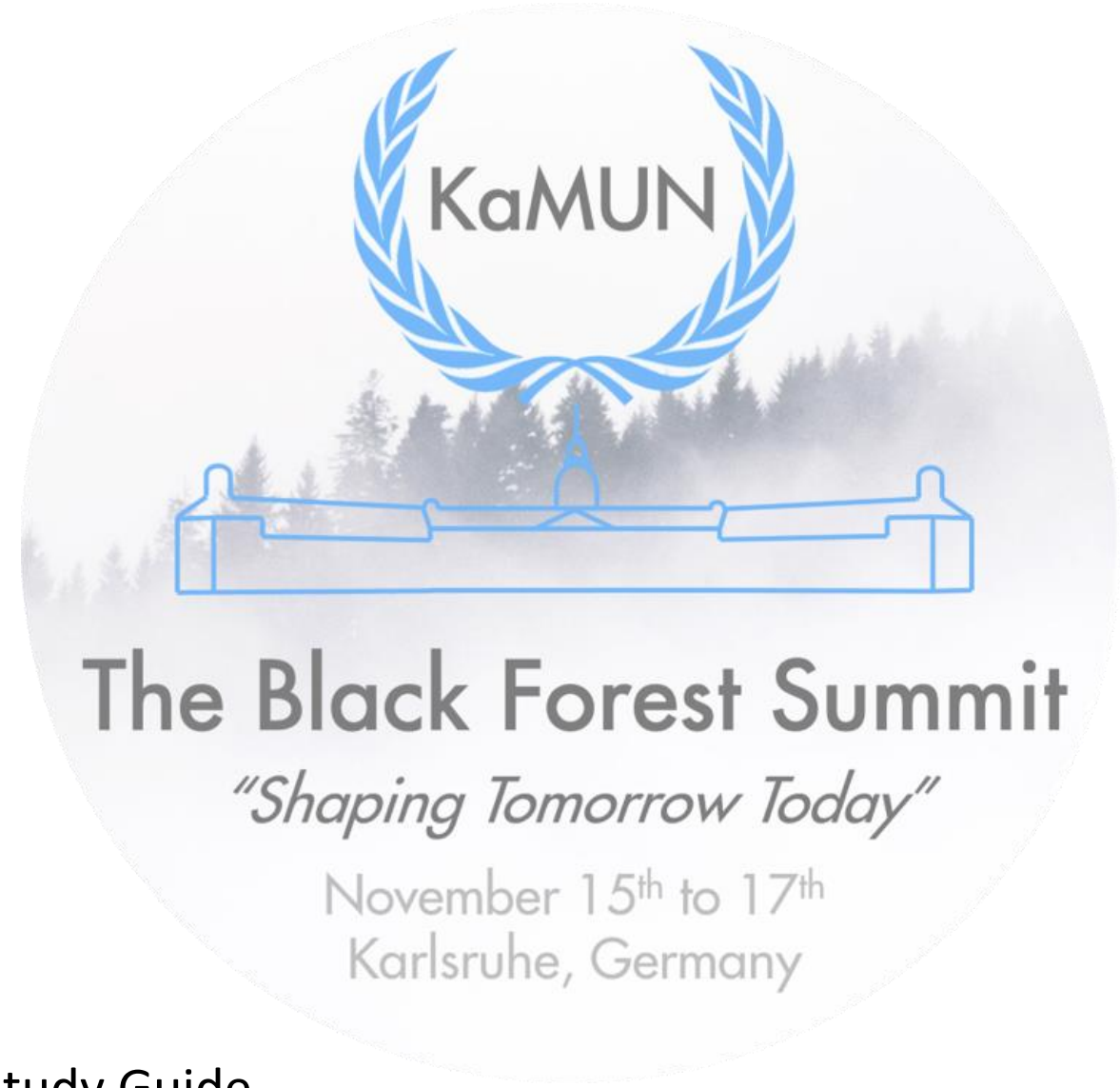


Study Guide

United Nations General Assembly First Committee [DISEC]

Arming Space: The Militarization of Outer Space

Contents

General Assembly – Disarmament and International Security Committee

GA-1 DISEC

Committee Introduction

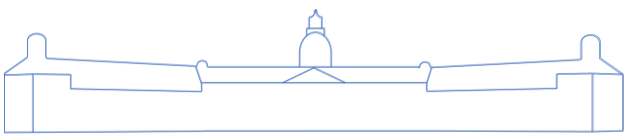
The General Assembly is one of the six principle organs of the United Nations, established by the Charter in 1946. The Disarmament and International Security Committee was established in 1993 as the First General Assembly. Chapter IV, Article 11 of the United Nations Charter outlines the role of DISEC, and its fundamental principle as cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security. Thus, DISEC is in charge of global challenges in relation to disarmament and manages issues affecting the international community in the ambit of international security administration.

These matters are pressing and crucial topics, similar to those debated in the United Nations Security Council. However, the General Assembly aims to maintain peace through cooperation while the Security Council works on important current situations and ongoing conflicts. Moreover, DISEC hopes for disarmament or at least a regulation about armaments through cooperative and collaborative arrangements between the stakeholders. The United Nations Disarmament Commission works in close cooperation with DISEC to view a situation from different angles and to find to solutions even faster.

The Second World War, the development of nuclear weapons, and weapons of mass destruction made it inevitable to build up a system of peace and security more urgent. When the League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations, disarmament played a crucial role and became one of the most prominent topics debated on the international stage. Through the past decades, issues regarding disarmament were always part of the agenda. Nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction form the core focus of the committee.

As DISEC is a General Assembly Committee, they do not have the mandate to deploy a mission in the fight against international terrorism. To stay within their competence, it focuses on the establishment of conventions and treaties to prevent terroristic attacks and the use of weapons for terroristic issues. In line with that it is important to notice DISEC can only consider matters of international security, in case these issues are not already under the scrutiny by the Security Council.

DISEC adopts its resolutions with a simple majority, in which all member states have equally weighted votes.



Note from the Chairs

Chair - Hamza Naeem

Honored Delegates,

It is undeniably an absolutely heart-warming pleasure to welcome you to the Disarmament and International Security Committee at KaMUN – The Black Forest Summit 2019.

I am Hamza Naeem, a graduate of the National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan. I have completed my four years of bachelor's in Electrical Engineering, majoring in Power Systems. I am currently operational at this French Multinational GDF Suez (now known as ENGIE) in the capacity of a Operations Engineer. I have been a very active member of the Model United Nations circuit in the course of past 11 years.

I am truly honored to serve as the Committee Chair for DISEC at this year's edition of KaMUN – The Black Forest Summit 2019, since it is one of the most prestigious Model United Nations across Europe. As a committee and a group of relentlessly hard-working individuals, DISEC at KaMUN – The Black Forest Summit 2019 shall undoubtedly become one of the most exhilarating and thought-provoking experiences of our lives.

The importance of the expression of your opinion, principally in the realms of foreign policy and global diplomacy carries immense value, irrespective of the level of diversity and the number of individuals that may be present to witness your opinion. The Model United Nations platform is not just limited to representing countries, participating in rhetoric and socializing, the objective essentially is to step forward and comprehend the complexities of decision-making and multilateral policy structures.

The success of this conference will not be defined by how much voice an individual raised, but the extent of knowledge and the level of understanding he established of as to why global leadership take enigmatic decisions, which may in fact be an essential step towards the survival and sovereignty of a Nation.

Within DISEC, every single delegate must be well-prepared, not for their own progress and benefit, but for that of others as well. If each delegation is able to prepare themselves to become the true ambassadors of their allotted countries, not only will the entire gathering benefit from the vast knowledge flowing through the committee, but each individual shall be able to take a leap forward in becoming a more informed citizen of the global populace. Each of you, as delegates, is responsible for the success or failure of this conference; let us not find faults in each other, but seek to explore the positive aspects of the delegations that sit amongst us and of the platform that has been created for us. Let us congregate to make the KaMUN – The Black Forest Summit 2019 experience worthwhile.

Chair - Bruno

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure as well as an honor to serve as your chair, alongside Hamza, in the DISEC Committee. It will be the third time for me, to debate or chair in a Committee at KaMUN – The Black Forest Summit 2019 and I am convinced that this year's edition will be another unforgettable weekend.

I am Bruno Immanuel Striebel, a fourth-year law student at the University of Heidelberg. After having spent my first 2 years in Konstanz, I studied for one year at the University of Lisbon. Since October 2019, I am specializing in German and EU-public law and am furthermore a member in the Universities Team for this year's European Law Moot Court. Since I started my studies in 2016, I have always participated in MUN conferences, as Delegate, Chair and Secretary General. Participating in MUN conferences was one of the most inspiring and changing experiences in my life. I hope to be able to share the MUN spirit and to make you as passionate for MUN as I am.

In my opinion, the two keys of success for an MUN conference are preparation and courage. Preparation because it is inevitable that you are aware of the topic, your countries policy and what you actually want to achieve through a resolution. Courage because the most important is that you stand up, speak and share your ideas with the committee to work towards a common solution for a problem concerning the whole international community. When I attended my first MUN conference, I was afraid of holding a speech in a foreign language and to address a committee full of great students. To feel this way is absolutely normal and your first speech mightn't be on a level with the ones of John Bercow addressing the House of Commons. The more often you practice speaking and formulate your ideas, the better you will get. I therefore urge everyone of you, to see this conference as a possibility for you to learn skills you will not get taught in university.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize that the spirit of MUN is essentially, to meet other students from different countries, studying different subjects. To create friendships that will still last, even when the conference is over, and everyone returns home. I am looking forward to a great experience and to inspire you for MUN and get inspired by your ideas and histories.

Agenda: Arming Space: The Militarization of Outer Space

Introduction

In the course of recent history, our global village has seen much advancements in the technology connecting us from one corner of the world to another. Necessarily, the backbone of the communication link works through the thermosphere, where most of the satellites orbit and pass on the information across the globe from one corner to another. This information may include Television Channel data, internet packets or important classified information for the use of governments or militaries. We can now watch US cable news channels in China and Vietnam, or read various electronic newspapers from different regions of the world in English. Moreover, the new communication and commuting technologies, allow people to spread news and opinions all over the globe in real time.

Despite these advances in human connection, one of humanity's yet-to-be-realized hopes is to live together in peace on planet Earth.

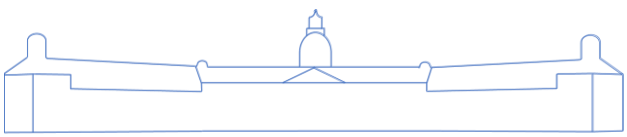
The collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War in 1990 brought nations of the world to experience an unprecedented "globalization" of economic and social interdependence. As the development of communication and transportation industry make it easier for humans to move into outer space, it also raises a very important concern, whether these developments will affect the efforts to bring peace on earth or would rather spread the conflicts and wars from Earth beyond our planet? From the time of World War II to 2018, there were more than 252 wars in more than 100 different regions of the world. While these armed conflicts have always taken place on the earth, the rapid development of science has enabled states to spread war to outer space.

In order to cater for this concern, the United Nations are required to stay updated with all the technical advancements in the arms production and weapons industry in order to formulate a way to regulate the production and trade of arms that could be used in outer space.

However, its main objective has to be the ban of all forms of weapons from outer space. While the Outer Space treaty, a milestone for international peace and security only contains a prohibition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in outer space, this rule has to be extended to possibly all kind of arms.

Definition

The problem with the approach to defining *air space* is that it does not address the vertical dimension. States have never agreed how far up *outer space* begins. Even scientists are not sure where to draw the line because the Earth's atmosphere does not suddenly end but just becomes thinner and thinner the higher one goes. As a result, although there is a general consensus that outer space begins at the point where it is possible for objects to orbit the Earth, there are



different ideas about where this point actually is. Moreover, where it is depends on prevailing technology. This is why the US State Department has argued that it would be counter-productive to define in concrete terms, such as miles, where outer space begins.

Background

While for the beginning of the 21st century, the conflict between the eastern and western block was assumed to be over, it is back on the political agenda today. With the annexation of the Crimea by the Russian Federation and the devastating conflict in Syria and Iraq the division between the two sides is getting deeper again.

However, the situations in Syria and the Ukraine are not the only conflicts jeopardizing international peace and security. In the Kashmir region, the tensions between India and Pakistan are constantly rising. The situation in the South Chinese Sea is still unresolved. The bloody conflict in Yemen hasn't yet come to an end and the conflict between the U.S. and Iran seems to be in a deadlock.

This is however not the only concerning development: In 2008 China became the third country to shoot down a satellite, followed by India in 2019. The threat of a *space war* is constantly increasing and the attempts by the U.S. and France to build up a space force suggest the direction of the future developments in these areas.

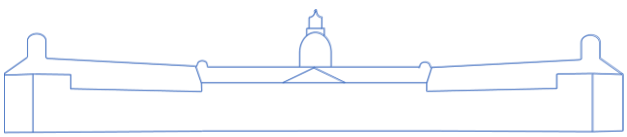
Speaking of the term space war, doesn't necessarily mean troops in celestial camouflage, maneuvering with jet packs and targeting the enemy with laser guns. A conflict could take many different — and largely silent — forms, ranging from jamming a GPS satellite to temporarily blinding a sensor with a laser or relying on a cyberattack to disrupt services. Then there is the potential for an actual physical attack — with a missile or laser — to destroy space assets. Some experts worry the most about that scenario, which was exemplified by a 2008 test in which China tested an anti-satellite laser to blow up one of its own satellites.

United States

In February 2019, following the announcement of President Donald Trump, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a strategy paper concerning the establishment of a Space Force.

The DoD expressed that China, Russia and other potential adversaries of the U.S. would be developing strategies, organizations, and capabilities to exploit possible U.S. vulnerabilities in space. As a result, space would now be a warfighting domain.

If authorized by Congress, a sixth branch of the Armed Forces dedicated to space would catalyze a fundamental transformation of the U.S. approach to space from a support function to a warfighting domain. Establishing a sixth branch with dedicated military leadership would unify, focus, and accelerate the development of space doctrine, capabilities, and expertise to outpace future threats; institutionalize advocacy of space priorities to provide for the common defense in all domains; and further build space warfighting culture.



The DoD argued that:

> *"Space underpins the U.S. way of life and U.S. way of war. It provides an unparalleled vantage point and medium for rapid, global information collection and dissemination. Space-based capabilities facilitate the flow of people and goods worldwide, while guiding military forces to their positions and weapons to their targets. Satellites enable individuals worldwide to communicate from remote corners of the globe and allow national authorities to command and control forces in multiple theaters simultaneously. Small businesses and multinational corporations alike rely on space-based imagery and other sensing to plan their daily operations, while military commanders understand the security environment through information gathered by intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance satellites. Additionally, new investments and new technology are fueling opportunities for an expanding ecosystem of space systems and services."*

France and the European Union

In July French President Emmanuel Macron announced the creation of a new national military space force command, as France becomes the latest of the world's top powers to boost defense capabilities in outer space. Macron said space has become a "true national security issue" due to increased spending and interest in the area from the United States, India, China and Russia. The president said the new space command would be created in September and would initially be tasked with "better protecting" French satellites. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aims to recognize space as a domain of warfare this year, four senior diplomats told the Reuters news agency in June.

As stipulated by Article 189 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Union shall draw up a European Space policy to promote scientific and technical progress, industrial competitiveness and the implementation of its policies. Article 3 (1) of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) determines that the Unions aim is to promote peace, its values and the well-being of its people. While the EU has not been able to coordinate its external actions in recent conflicts, such as the crisis in the street of Hormuz, it would significantly increase the weight of the Unions negotiation power, if they would act as a unity. However, the different aspirations of the individual Member States might impair a uniform policy.

China

In 2007, China was the third country to shoot down a target in outer space. The test that caused deep concerns about a possible armed space race, was the first one after almost 30 years, after the U.S. and Russia halted their tests about the possible damages that could emerge from debris produced by them.

In a statement from 2017, China emphasized its dedication to advocate for non-weaponization of outer space. It thereby referred to a draft, jointly submitted with Russia in February 2008 on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use

of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT, CD/1839) to the Conference on Disarmament, updated in 2014.

India

In March 2019 Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India had test-fired a rocket that shot down one of its own satellites, escalating the country's rivalry with China and Pakistan, and demonstrating a strategic capability in space that few countries possess.

This technological leap puts India in an exclusive club of nations, along with the United States, Russia and China, that have proved their ability to destroy targets in space.

It could moreover have ominous repercussions, accelerating the space race with China and destabilizing the uneasy balance of power between India and Pakistan, which are both armed with nuclear weapons. It could allow India essentially to blind an enemy by taking out its space-based communication and surveillance satellites.

When China first successfully tested such an antisatellite missile in 2007, it set off global concern over the growing weaponization of space. Fears are emerging that the rivalry between the two most populated countries in the world is moving into space.

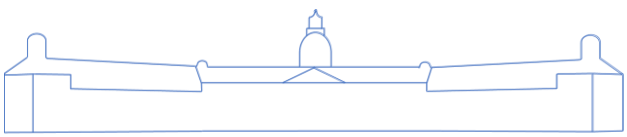
According to Kazuto Suzuki, an international relations professor from Japan this move by India was a demonstration against China. He moreover added that the "militarization of space would be underway" as satellite technology had become "the backbone of global communication".

PAROS – Conference on Disarmament (CD)

The Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral disarmament forum established in 1979 discusses the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS). The conference is generally independent of the United Nations though closely related to it. The CD and its predecessors have negotiated major multilateral arms limitations and disarmament agreements as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Previous Committee Work on this Topic

Since space exploration started amid the Cold War arms race and might not have happened without changes in missile arms innovation, states around the world stressed that it would lay the establishment for a modern kind of war in which the soil would be fair one battleground. Hence the UNGA meeting passed its first resolution on the subject of arming space in November 1957, almost one month after Russians began with their Sputnik dispatch. In Resolution 1148, the GA encouraged "the joint study of an inspection system designed to ensure that the sending of objects through outer space shall be exclusively for peaceful and scientific purposes" In 1959, in Resolution 1472, the GA built up the Committee on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space (CPUOS). The committee, which meets yearly, presently has 77 UN States. The GA charged CPUOS with considering measures to peaceful use of external space.



In 1961, the GA asked states to report all launches of objects into outer space to the UN Secretary-General. In 1976, the GA adopted the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Since then, 62 states have joined the convention and regularly submit reports of launches originating in their territories. Since there are 193 UN Member States, this is quite a small number of participants. However, many states, especially developing countries, have no space program. According to UNOOSA, 92 % of all satellites, probes, landers, manned spacecraft and space station flight elements launched into Earth orbit or beyond have been registered with the Secretary-General since the convention. In 1967, the GA adopted the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

Regulatory (legal) framework concerning the militarization of outer space

The only legal sources concerning the militarization of outer space is the "Outer Space Treaty" of 1967. In contrary to the "Moon Treaty of 1979" the major powers are parties to the treaty, and it is considered to form the basis of space law. As of 2019, 109 countries are parties to the treaty and another 23 have signed but not ratified it. The treaty constitutes some important and basic principles concerning the exploration of outer space. It furthermore prohibits to station or install nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction in outer space or on celestial bodies.

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967

"THE STATES PARTIES. TO THIS TREATY,

INSPIRED by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

RECOGNIZING the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

BELIEVING that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for the benefit of all peoples irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development, Treaty on principles governing the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies.

Article IV

States Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner. The moon and other celestial bodies shall be used by all States Parties to the Treaty exclusively for peaceful purposes. The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on celestial bodies

shall be forbidden. The use of military personnel for scientific research or for any other peaceful purposes shall not be prohibited. The use of any equipment or facility necessary for peaceful exploration of the moon and other celestial bodies shall also not be prohibited.

The outer space treaty is the only binding legal source that refers to the militarization of outer space as it, at least, prohibits the use of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in outer space. Nevertheless, the treaty does not apply to any other types of weapons."

The General Assembly itself has also passed several Resolutions with regards to outer space and especially to the disarmament of the latter. Res. 1884 (XVIII), calling upon States to refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction or from installing such weapons on celestial bodies, was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 October 1963. The Resolution as well as the treaty merely concerns nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Furthermore, the Resolutions of the General Assembly are not binding upon the Member States of the United Nations. However, it is possible that a Resolution of the General Assembly could trigger negotiations between states that could ultimately lead to the ratification of a treaty concerning the use of weapons other than those already conceived by the outer space treaty. In respect of the outer space treaty, it is likely that Res. 1884 (XVIII) actually contributed to its drafting and lastly to its adoption.

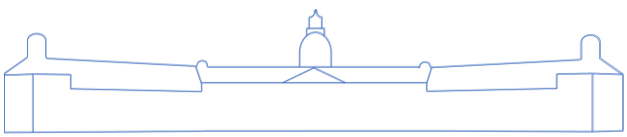
1884 (XVIII). Question of general and complete disarmament:

"The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1721 A (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it expressed the belief that the exploration and use of outer space should be only for the betterment of mankind,

Determined to take steps to prevent the spread of the arms race to outer space,

1. *Welcomes the expressions by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America of their intention not to station in outer space any objects carrying nuclear weapons or other kinds of weapons of mass destruction;*
2. *Solemnly calls upon all States:*
   a) *To refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, installing such weapons on celestial bodies, or stationing such weapons in outer space in any other manner;*
   b) *To refrain from causing, encouraging or in any way participating in the conduct of the foregoing activities."* (1244th plenary meeting, 17 October 1963)



Resolution 1884 (XVIII) preceded the Outer Space Treaty by 4 years. In respect to the content they show concrete similarities. It is therefore possible that a new resolution demanding a broader prohibition of arms in the outer space could ultimately lead to the adoption of a new treaty concerning the militarization of outer space.

Questions a draft resolution should answer

- Do we need an outer space treaty 2.0?
- How can we stop the accelerating armed space race?
- Should it be prohibited for states, to shoot down their own satellites to prevent the risk of debris in the orbit?
- What amendments need to be done by the UN in the international space security policies for better regulations of the space arms production?
- Do we need a space arms embargo?
- How can the registrations and documentations of all the space arms produced worldwide be made more efficient and flawless?
- What measures must be taken by the UN to stop the space war threats and its likelihood?
- What additional measure must be taken in order to trace and eradicate the threat of a space war?
- Who should enforce a ban or other limitations? Should that be the role of the Security Council or of some other body?
- What can be done to minimize the gap between developed and less-developed countries in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, as well as in the knowledge of any militarization that may be occurring?
- What can be done to ensure that the Moon and other celestial bodies do not become new locations of conflict?

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Please be reminded that the aim of this guide is to provide a general overview about the topic. It cannot conclusively contain all information necessary to ensure an interesting and smooth debate. Individual research is inevitable to determine your countries policy and your goals as regards to the final resolution.