UNGA – DISEC

Greetings delegates,

We welcome you to UNGA-DISEC at CHMUN'20. As your executive board, during your time in the committee, we'll be trying to open portals for you towards a fast-paced world of international politics and diplomacy. In the committee you're not just going to be a school student. Rather, you'd be an international delegate with the responsibility of voicing the opinions of millions of civilians from your sovereign nation.

During the course of the debate, I expect that the delegates would adhere strictly to their nation's foreign interests and would only quote articles and statistics from Reuters, Al Jazeera, TeleSur, UN or National documents while making statements. Prior to your attendance in the committee, we urge you all to try understanding the complex multidimensional nature of international politics over seemingly fundamental black and white issues. Thoroughly read this background guide but keep it in your mind that this is only to kick start to your research and is not to be treated as the end-all be-all of your delegate research.

Should you need any clarifications or help, we remain at your disposal!

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We look forward to meeting you online!

Disarmament and International Security Committee

The First Committee in the General Assembly (GA1) deals with issues including disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and finds solutions to what the international security regime has been facing.

It also takes into consideration issues such as disarmament and international security within the Charter or related to the roles of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as rules governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of accommodating provisions and actions intended at strengthening stability through minor levels of armaments.

Introduction

Militarization of space is not a current phenomenon. It has preceded and continued even after **The Outer Space Treaty** entered into force in October 1967, after which it was believed that outer space would be a 'zone of peace'. However, despite the ratification of the treaty by hundred-ten nations, this expectation has remained an illusion. While, as a result of the treaty, outer space has remained free from the deployment of nuclear weapons and any other weapons of mass destruction, militarisation of this environment has continued. This occurred in two stages. The first began with the launch of military satellites in 1958. The second phase began almost immediately with the development and testing of weapons which could damage or destroy these satellites. While anti-satellite weapons are not yet deployed in orbits around the Earth, we are on the verge of introducing such weapons into outer space under the guise of defensive systems. By the end of 1984 at least 2219 military-oriented satellites had been launched. A military satellitecan contribute to our capability to bomb, the ability to launch missiles with high accuracy, but at the same time to low-cost navigation of ships, aircraft, and to the surveillance of aircraft for air traffic control. The functions of military satellites range from navigation, communications, meteorology and geodesy to reconnaissance and anti-satellite activities. This constitutes about 75 per cent of all the satellites orbited. The committee must work towards eliminating loopholes in **The Outer Space Treaty** and work towards updating it to include modern technologies.

“Weaponization” VS “Militarization” of Space

Currently, space is not weaponized. There are no weapons deployed in space meant to attack space objects, such as satellites; nor are satellite weapons deployed against terrestrial targets. Terrestrially (in air, sea, or on the ground) several nations possess operational **Anti-satellite weapons (ASAT)** systems. Although no ASAT system has yet been utilised in warfare, a few nations have shot down their own satellites to demonstrate their ASAT capabilities in a show of force. Only the United States, Russia, China, and India have demonstrated this capability successfully. The roles include: a defensive measure against an adversary's space-based nuclear weapons, a force multiplier for a nuclear first strike, a countermeasure against an adversary's anti-ballistic missile defence (ABM), an asymmetric counter to a technologically superior adversary, and a counter-value weapon. At the same time, space is an increasingly vital part of our military activities from which the nations obtain great advantages (The US has been greatest beneficiary of militarization of space with respect to other nations, it uses space to maintain its world hegemony)[1]. We use space for communication; for surveillance and targeting over the battlefields; for weather prediction; for precise mapping and positioning of our own and opposition military assets; for early warning of missile and air attacks; and for general military, economic, and technological intelligence worldwide. Thus space is “militarized” though not yet “weaponized”.

Proposed Resolutions (Past & Present) and Current Legal Framework

The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (**“Outer Space Treaty”**) entered into force in 1967, after consideration by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the General Assembly. The Treaty provides the basic framework for international space law. In particular, it prohibits the placement of nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction in outer space and the stationing of such weapons on celestial bodies. It also establishes basic principles related to the peaceful use of outer space. This includes that the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and that the moon and other celestial bodies shall not be subject to national appropriation or claims of sovereignty. This treaty laid the foundation for international cooperation and further treaties between states. However, the ban on weapons in space was limited to

nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction as these types of weapons were of most concern during the Cold War era when the treaty was created. This treaty only addressed weapons that were “placed in orbit” or on a celestial body, and liability was not clearly spelled out.

Chinese and Russian Proposal– In February 2008, China and Russia jointly submitted to the UN Conference on Disarmament a draft Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT). This proposal attempted to define and prohibit the proliferation of weapons in space and provided definitions of prohibited weapons.

United States of America- has openly criticized the usefulness of discussionsregarding armamentsin outer space in the context of the UN. The U.S critical stance towards PAROS should be examined both positively and negatively. On the one hand it can provide “food for thought” about the mistakes that the UN has made regarding the issue and how any future negotiations can be improved in order to produce substantial results. On the other hand, U.S position stands in the way of any outer space related discussions having credibility. While the U.S continues to criticize the role of the UN when it comes to PAROS, the credibility of the discussions themselves decreases.

Canada contributions regarding the prevention of an arms race in outer space has been numerous from the beginning of the Conference on Disarmament. They usually aim at building confidence and trust between nations and generally providing a framework for international co-operation in outer space. Two of the most significant Canadian initiatives have been CD/1815 “Transparency and confidence building measures in outer space” and CD/1569 “Proposal concerning CD action on outer space”.

UN Resolution/s – The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) is a UN resolution seeking a ban on the weaponization of space. It was originally proposed in the 1980s from an ad hoc committee of the Conference on Disarmament. The proposal was reintroduced in recent years and is voted on annually, with the United States being the only country to oppose it and recently Israel joining it. In 2019,**The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)**approved, by a recorded vote of **175 in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States)**, with no abstentions, the draft resolution **“Prevention of an arms race in outer space”** *(document A/C.1/74/L.3)*. In the same session The Committee approved the draft resolution **“Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space”** *(document A/C.1/74/L.58/Rev.1),* by a recorded vote of **124 in favour to**

41 against, with 10 abstentions (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Japan, Malawi, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Turkey). By a vote of **166 in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States)**, with 5 abstentions (Australia, Georgia, Palau, Ukraine, United Kingdom), delegates went on to approve the draft resolution **"Transparency and confidence building measures in outer space activities"** *(document A/C.1/74/L.60)*, by which the Assembly would encourage Member States to continue to review and implement the transparency and confidence building measures proposed in the 2013 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the issue.

European Union Policy Proposal –In 2008 the European Union proposed a "Space Code of Conduct," a voluntary set of rules regarding matters such as space debris and operation of crafts or satellites in space. It was rejected by most significant space nations including the United States, China, Russia, and India.

Space Sanctuary & its Obstacles

The alternative to weaponization and space war is passive defence of space assets together with a treaty guaranteeing aspace sanctuary (= no weaponization of space). Though an overwhelming majority ofnations in the UN (including all of the technologically adept ones, except the U.S.) haveexpressed support for a treaty "**Preventing an Arms Race in Outer Space"(PAROS)**, such atreaty by itself would not be sufficient. There would always be fear of surreptitious weaponization of space by the opponent. (Verification would be difficult; it's hard to determine whether what's inside another's satellite is a forbidden weapon.) Passive defence of satellites would include miniaturization, redundancy; quick re-launch capability, shielding, coding and localization of communications links, and the development of alternative means to achieve current space tasks (e.g., high-altitude drone aircraft for communication and observation). Such an approach would also be expensive – but it would further, not hinder, the development of space industry. It would also further, not hinder, international stability. In as much as an emphasis on commerce, rather than military, has always seemed to be a preferable approach to peaceful and prosperous relations among states in the international system, it would seem that the PAROS approach to space should be the preferable one. At present, the alternative approach, weaponizing space, seems to be preferred only by the American and Israeli administration.

Developments in Past Years: A Timeline

2003 –Resolution "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space" was adopted by the First Committee of the General Assembly with 174 for and 4 abstentions (USA, Israel, Marshall Islands and Micronesia).
2004 –UN again adopted the resolution "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space" with 0 voting against and 4 abstentions (Haiti, Israel, Palau, and United States).
2005 –Russia introduced a resolution on transparency and confidence-building measures regarding outer space activities. This resolution enjoyed support from an overwhelming majority, with only Israel abstaining and the United States objecting.
2006-Russia again introduced a resolution on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, which enjoyed substantial support. The United States maintained its objections and Israel continued to abstain from the vote. On 22 May, China and Russia tabled another working paper at the CD that related to the verification aspects of PAROS (CD/1778). This working paper suggested different types of confidence-building measures such as exchanges of information, demonstrations, notifications, consultations and thematic workshops.
2007-On 11 January, the Chinese fired a missile to shoot down one of its own ageing weather satellites. This raised fears in the United States concerning a potential space race. Japan also strongly condemned the test, declaring concern over its national security and the possibility of an arms race in space. Despite condemning the test, the United States continued to pursue several space and missile defence projects, many of which have dual-use capabilities.On 15 June, the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space adopted space debris mitigation guidelines.Russia again introduced a resolution for transparency and confidence building measures for activities in outer space. In accordance with previous years all voted in favour of the resolution except for the United States (objection) and Israel (abstaining).Resolution on the "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space" again passed with Israel as the only abstention and USA sole country voting against.
2008-On 20 February, the United States shot down a failed spy satellite that was carrying approximately a half-ton of hydrazine rocket fuel, a toxic chemical. Many countries criticized this act because the satellite was shot down using a three stage, Standard Missile-3, whose primary purpose is for use as an interceptor for the U.S. Navy's missile defence system.
2009-On 28 October, the CD adopted draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space." The draft resolution was adopted by a vote of 176 in favor, none against, and two abstentions (the United States and Israel).

2010-From 18 January to 26 March, many delegations made statements that supported the PAROS treaty in the CD. Australia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan welcomed and supported the draft treaty submitted by Russia and China in 2008. The Russian delegation reiterated the need to move toward the implementation for the draft treaty. The delegations of Bangladesh, the European Union, Ireland, Libya, Republic of Korea, Romania, and Switzerland also made positive reference to the PAROS treaty during their statements. The United States delegation's statements did not reference the PAROS treaty.
2011-On 4 February the United States released its National Security Space Strategy, which emphasized the need for the responsible use of outer space and greater international cooperation. It advocated multi-layered deterrence approach and enhancing overall national space capacity. On 2 December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed resolution on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.
2012-From 19-30 March, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-first session in Vienna. The committee report emphasized that the Outer Space Treaty did not adequately prohibit the placement of conventional weapons in outer space.
2013- From this year onwards G-21 (Group of 21) started playing a more important role and on 3 September, Bangladesh made a statement on behalf of the Member States of the G-21 on PAROS. In the statement, the Group emphasized the need for space technology due to it being indispensable to everyday life. Furthermore, the Group also stressed the growing use of outer space and the need for transparency, confidence building measures, and better information on the part of the international community. Finally, the Group welcomed the joint Russian-Chinese initiative of a draft treaty on the "Prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects."
2014-On 4 December, the UN passed a Russian draft resolution on banning arms race in outer space was adopted during the assembly's 69th session with 126 votes in favor and 4 votes against. Georgia, Israel, Ukraine and the US were the four countries that opposed the draft resolution.
2015-On 19 January, the Conference on Disarmament officially began. On 20 January, H.E. Mr.HenkCor van der Kwast issued a statement on behalf of the Netherlands, encouraging more work on confidence building and transparency in PAROS.On 13 August, Indonesia submitted a working paper on behalf of G-21stressing the importance of space security in a technologically dependent society.On 7 December the UN General Assembly adopted resolution on the no first placement of weapons in outer space.
2016-On 4 April, the Russian Federation and Venezuela released a joint statement to the Conference on Disarmament declaring that they will not be the first to deploy any type of weapon in outer space.On 3 June Malaysia submitted a working paper on

behalf of the Member States of G-21 on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

2017-On June 16, the EU Member States issued a statement to the Conference on Disarmament Working Group on the "Way Ahead" that proposed a multilateral non-legally binding instrument on Space Security.

2018- At the First Committee session in October, four resolutions involving outer space security were adopted. The United States voted "no" on all four. These resolutions were "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space," "Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space," "No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space," and "Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space."

2019-On 27 March, Prime Minister of India NarendraModi announced the successful anti-satellite trial of a Prithvi Mark-11 delivery vehicle. The kinetic kill vehicle completed an intercept of an Indian Microsat-R satellite at an altitude of 282 kilometres. Later that year on 25 and 26 July, India conducted its first simulated space combat drills, nicknamed "IndSpaceEx" operated by its newfangledDefence Space Agency. On 5 November, the First Committee of the UN General Assembly voted in favour of adopting three resolutions to prevent the militarization of space. These resolutions were "Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space," "No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space," and "Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space."

2020-On 15 April Russia conducted an anti-satellite test of its direct-assent missile system–a platform designed to intercept satellites in low Earth orbit. In response to this, representatives of the U.S. Space Command made a statement that Russia's space developments represent an ever-increasing threat to U.S. interests. While analysts were unable to conclude whether Russia attempted to intercept an object or merely test a delivery vehicle, this is thought to be the 10th attempt to test this platform.

Important terms

Militarization: The process of becoming ready for conflict or war
is militarisation.Militarisation of space refers to the placement and development and weaponry and military technology in outer space. And/ or the use of outer space equipment for military purposes (of peaceful nature). Satellites constitute prime examples.
Weaponization: the act of putting weapons in a place,adapt for use as a weapon.
Outer space:the physical universe beyond the earth's atmosphere.
Armament: Military weapons and equipment.
Arms Race: The term “arms race” refers to a situation of rivalry between two or more countries, with the aim of having “more and stronger weapons than each other”
Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles: (ICBM’s) An intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is a guided ballistic missile with a minimum range of 5,500 kilometres (3,400 mi) primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery (delivering one or more thermonuclear warheads). This type of missiles uses similar technology with those used for space exploration missions
Satellites: an artificial body placed in orbit round the earth or moon or another planet.Currently, there are 1,167 operational satellites in orbit. 8 Though it is estimated that 3,600 satellites (out of the 6,600 that have been launched so far) remain in orbit.9 These satellites are used for a wide array of purposes, among them communications, navigation, weather, research, military surveillance, space stations and human space crafts. These satellites serve military and civilian purposes —or both.

Unresolved Issues

Several issues regarding the development and effects of space militarization still remain unresolved, with sometimes little to no consensus on what an appropriate solution can be. A glaring issue that remains is the extent of military action that can be justified for use in space. While there are treaties that explicitly ban testing nuclear weapons and placing nuclear weapons in space, there has been no treaty discussing the implementation of conventional weapons in space. With the current United States administration pursuing a military arm to deal with the realms of space, it remains unclear on how they will operate. Treaties signed in the past have also suggested that space exploration should only be reserved for peacefulExploration. Debate still swirls if such a standard can exist with the creation of a space oriented military forces

and technologies. The term “space” itself is an ambiguous and undefined term. While International law has defined that space is the minimum altitude where orbit can be achieved, there isn’t a consistent altitude at where this is achieved. Commonly in scientific circles space is defined as the Kármán line, at 100 kilometres above the sea level. The Fédérationaéronantiqueinternational (FAI) has been using this as the international standard in tracking aeronautics. The United States Air Force however defines astronauts of having flown above 80 KM above sea level, the level between the mesosphere and the thermosphere. There are also arguments that there should not be any level to define the limit of space, however setting such a limit will be crucial on discussing where weapons can be used and tested.

Questions to be addressed –

1. Definition of a “space weapon”?
2. How to update Outer Space Treaty to include modern technologies?
3. Active defence or Passive defence to prevent Space War? Which is better?
4. In what way could states’ actions be monitored in the field of Militarisation of Space?
5. Should there be any limits on the use of Satellites?
6. How can we reduce the weaponization of space without putting national security of a state at risk?
7. How the proliferation of Satellites and ASAT, military and commercial, can be more transparent and should there be any restrictions during transactions involving them?
8. How are Terrorist organizations using space and space technologies? How to tackle this?
9. What penalties should be place on the violators of Outer Space Treaty?