

**OASIS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

General Assembly

President: Nour El Meery

Vice-President: Youssef El Massry

Guiding Package

Topic: Space Management, International Space Law and Prospective Reforms

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11. **Abstract:**

Space is a complicated phenomenon. It used to be a mystery to people, but with technology and scientific advancements, American astronomer Edwin Hubble defined and discovered the Andromeda galaxy in 1923. Space is technically unclaimed territory, it used to be out of our reach, but now we can go to it. Are there any legal rules up there? Can there be rules? Who decides these rules? Now that space is defined, it can be dangerous. It can be a way to start war since what could be the consequences to those who use it, it’s technically deserted space. If NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration agency) decides to set up a satellite there, technically no one has the right to disagree. So, now that space is something we have come accustomed to, we must create legal rules, regulations, limits…etc. Which is why the United Nations has worked hard in order to find a way to solve the issue of this phenomenon. Managing space: international space law and prospective reforms is an issue that the UN is working towards in order to please everyone and set the necessities of space and answer all those unanswered questions. They say that World War III might happen because interstate war is now a possibility in the future. Already 30 countries are active in space and that could be a threat for those who are so settling laws is a must.

1. **Introduction:**

Our era has witnessed many developments concerning the unknown. We have succeeded into exposing mysteries and becoming more knowledgeable on things that used to be described as fictive. With the constant motive of desire towards space authority, countries are wishing they could reach the level of advancements and access the space technology to help the state of their country as well as make it a more sustainable advanced environment. Prospective space reforms are solutions that the United Nations are thinking of as they have already created treaties, principles, conventions and created programs in order for everyone to respect extraterrestrial bodies, space technology and space objects as well as its treasure and benefits. International lawyers are not able to agree on a unique, uniform description and definition of the term "outer space".

1. **Definition of key terms:**
2. **Space:** “a continuous area or expanse which is free, available, or unoccupied”
3. **Reform: “**make changes in (something, especially an institution or practice) in order to improve it”
4. **Extraterrestrial body:** “of or from outside the earth or its atmosphere (example the moon, asteroids…)”
5. **Celestial body:** “any natural body outside of the Earth's atmosphere (example: the sun, the moon, any planet from the solar system…)”
6. **Andromeda galaxy:** “is a spiral galaxy approximately 780 kiloparsecs (2.5 million light-years) from Earth, and the nearest major galaxy to the Milky Way”
7. **Background information:**

The first discovery of space date back to the 1610’s with Galileo Galilei discovery of Jupiter’s moons and the phases of Venus with his telescope, since then huge discoveries were made due to the enormous developments that were made scientifically. The first interaction with space was made in the 1950’s when the Soviet Union launched sputnik 1 into space, which was the first artificial satellite to be launched to space from earth. Then began the space race with united space which ended in 1960’s with the first human interaction with our moon when the American astronomer Neil Armstrong set his foot on our moon.

1. **Major countries and organizations involved:**
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3. **The Russia Federation:** the Russian space program is called “Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities”, it was formed in 1992, but the Russian activities predate the formation of this agency as it all began in 1950’s at the height of the Soviet Union and the cold war. They first launched sputnik in the cold war, which was the first artificial satellite to be launched to space.
4. **The United States of America:** the US competed with the Soviet Union in the space race in the 1950’s and 1960’s. they launched their first satellite into orbit in 1958 and sent the first American into space in 1961 but one of the most important acts in history is the American landing on the moon. Now they have the ability to lunch into space with the help of their operating space program called NASA.
5. **The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island:** in 1933, The British Interplanetary Society was founded, but the first satellite was launched in 1966 by NASA. Ariel 1 was a British satellite research programme conducted between 1960’s and the 1980s which supervised six satellites launches. The programme was under the supervision of the Science Research Council and made the UK the third country to operate a satellite. Great Britain developed launch capacity in the 1970’s but did not join the European consortium Arianespace, therefore losing this ability.
6. **Major organizations involved:**
7. **The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs:** is an organization that works towards ensuring the peaceful use and exploration of space. They thrive towards the protection of the usage of space science and using it and space technology for sustainable economic and social development. This organization stands by any United Nations member state that wants to earn legal paperwork to participate in activities in space. It also gives them the chance to use space technology for development and evolution of national programs.
8. **UNISAT’s Operational Satellite Applications Program:** UNOSAT is technology intensive program that gives imagery analysis and satellite solutions for human security and socio-economic development. Their mission is aligned with the demands of the United Nations General Assembly in 1963. To evade crisis and disasters and benefit from sustainable development, this organization has a goal of translating geographic information to the UN so that they can notify them of these upcoming, possible and risky dangers. Their team is filled with great IT, database analysists, and engineers so that they can deliver the most accurate information to the UN and those who want to help the world to become durable.
9. **UN involvement:**

The United Nations has worked multiple times in order to define the celestial and extraterrestrial bodies of space. It has made multiple meetings, decided upon several resolutions, written numerous treaties and has let the General Assembly Committee to adapt principles that are unique to space. Space reform is an important aspect of this issue as these laws keep changing.

Firstly, the General Assembly held a meeting on the 1st of February 2008 and wrote a resolution that is working on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. This resolution urges member states to sign the treaty on principles governing the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies that was decided upon by the General Assembly in 1966.

In order to find information on the treaty[[1]](#footnote-1), and to find the full resolution[[2]](#footnote-2).

Secondly, the General Assembly has also adopted another resolution on the 10th of January 2008. In this resolution they focus on urging all member states to specify everything they need to do in space, all their precautions, all their demands and to report all useful information on space. Also, it states that every action that wants to be taken in space by any nation should be run by the Secretary General first.

For the full detail on the clauses of this resolution[[3]](#footnote-3).

Finally, there are numerous other principles like the declaration of legal principles governing the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space and the principles governing the use by states of artificial earth satellites for international direct television broadcasting.

For all the information on these principles and every detail on the involvement of the UN[[4]](#footnote-4).

To find one of the latest resolutions[[5]](#footnote-5).

1. **Possible solutions:**
2. Write prospective reforms that will be agreed upon by most or all member states of the committee.
3. Ban certain activities in space, like the creation of private illegal satellites, nuclear weapon development.
4. Create punishments to those who practice illegal/ unregulated actions ins space.
5. Create an organization where they will keep track of space objects, extraterrestrial and celestial bodies, to repair it or inform others of it.
6. Hire a team of people that will work towards monitoring the actions in space and create a limited amount of problems, rule breaking or dangers that any nation can bring. The nation will be then sanctioned and or banned from any additional space activities.
7. **Guiding questions:**
8. What are the dangers/ threats of space?
9. What kind of punishment will be imposed when space laws are broken?
10. How far does space go, what can you claim and what can you not?
11. Who pays for the damage that’s done? How can you repair it?
12. How can we bring peace to something as complex as space if we do not have peace on Earth?
13. Are there any activities that cannot be done in space?
14. Because of our actions in space, are there any dangers/plans backfiring that can happen to harm us?
15. Have the laws that already exist helped, what can we do to reform it?
16. **Useful links:**

* UNITED NATIONS PRINCIPLES AND TREATIES, available on: <http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/publications/st_space_11rev2E.pdf>, consulted on the 27/6/2018.
* UNITAR ORGANIZATION, available on: <http://unitar.org/unosat/>, consulted on the 27/6/2018.
* UNOOSA ORGNIZATION, available on: <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/un-space/po.html>, consulted on the 27/6/2018.
* COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS, available on: <https://cpj.org/2015/04/10-most-censored-countries.php>, consulted on the 24/6/2018.
* SPACE ANSWERS, available on: <https://www.spaceanswers.com/space-exploration/how-many-countries-have-rockets-capable-of-reaching-space/>, consulted on the 24/6/2018.
* TIMELINE SPACE, available on: <https://www.space.com/4422-timeline-50-years-spaceflight.html>, consulted on the 24/6/2018.

1. **Bibliography:**

* Engadget, available on: <https://www.engadget.com/2015/05/11/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-laws-of-space/>, consulted on the 27/6/2018.
* United Nations UNOOSA, available on: <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties.html>, consulted on the 27/6/2018.
* Harvard Review, available on: <http://www.performancevoile.com/managing_space_international_space_law_and_prospective_reforms_features_company.pdf>, consulted on the 27/6/2018.
* Politico, available on: <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/04/06/outer-space-war-defense-russia-china-463067>, consulted on the 27/6/2018.
* World economic forum, available on: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/12/freedom-on-the-net-2016-where-are-social-media-users-under-pressure/>, consulted on the 24/6/2018.
* Geopolotics, available on: <http://english.geopolitics.ro/countries-progressing-in-space-programs/>, consulted on the 24/6/2018.
* United Nations, available on: <https://www.un.org/press/en/1997/19971103.GASPD114.html>, consulted on the 24/6/2018.
* NASA, available on: <https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/cooperation/index.html>, consulted on the 24/6/2018.

1. Treaty Space Law, available <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/introouterspacetreaty.html>, consulted on the 27/6/2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. General Assembly 2008 resolution, available on <http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/ARES_62_217E.pdf>, consulted on the 27/6/2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. General Assembly 2008 resolution, available on <http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/ARES_62_101E.pdf>, consulted on the 27/6/2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. UN treaties and principles for outer space, available on <http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/publications/st_space_11rev2E.pdf>, consulted on the 27/6/2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. General Assembly 2017 resolution, available on <http://www.unoosa.org/res/oosadoc/data/resolutions/2016/general_assembly_71st_session/ares7277_html/N1742901.pdf>, consulted on the 27/6/2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)