

Cerritos Novice Conference 2020

United Nations Committee for Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)



**Topic : Peaceful and Sustainable Uses of
Outer Space**

Director: Neha Lala

October 10th, 2020

To Delegates of CHSMUN Novice 2020

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to CHSMUN Novice 2020!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our 2020 online novice conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host our very first virtual novice conference, where you will become more knowledgeable on international issues, participate in intellectually stimulating discussions, and create new and everlasting friendships.

The CHSMUN program continues to compete around the world as a nationally ranked MUN program. Our delegates utilize diplomacy in order to create complex solutions towards multilateral issues in the global community. Our head chairs are selected from only the best seniors of our program, undergoing a rigorous training process to ensure the highest quality of moderating and grading of debate. Furthermore, all the topic synopses have been reviewed and edited numerous times. We strongly believe that by providing each and every delegate with the necessary tools and understanding, he or she will have everything they need to thrive in all aspects of the committee. We thoroughly encourage each delegate to engage in all of the facets of their topic, in order to grow in their skills as a delegate and develop a greater knowledge of the world around them.

Although this wasn't what we expected, our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience at the online conference. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2020, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. CHSMUN Novice 2020 will provide a quality experience for beginner delegates to develop their speaking and delegating skills.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Novice 2020!

Sincerely,

Anjali Mani and Karishma Patel

sg.cerritosmun@gmail.com

Secretary-Generals

A Note From The Director

Delegates,

My name is Neha Lala and I am so excited to be the head chair for the 1st Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). I am currently a senior here at Cerritos High School and this is my 5th year in Model UN. Model UN has provided me with many unforgettable memories each year, and continues to shape who I am today. I enjoy traveling to places such as UC Davis and New York for conferences, which give me the opportunity to bond with my peers. Outside of MUN, I am a part of the Swim and Waterpolo team, so you can often catch me poolside. I love talking to friends, riding my bike, and going on runs very early in the morning. When I'm not doing any of these activities, you can catch me curled up in the corner with a good book, or an addictive TV show. Overall, I understand it is nerve wracking and new that conferences are online yet this is a great opportunity for us to learn how to do Model UN a different way, and hopefully we all can grow from this experience. Be confident in your speaking abilities! I can't wait to see you all and if you have any questions or concerns, please send an email my way! Good luck!

Sincerely,

Neha Lala

Director, 1st DISEC

Committee Introduction

Established in 1946, the United Nations Committee for Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) was the first committee to be added under the General Assembly. Created in order to deal with issues regarding disarmament, global security, and the maintenance of world peace and international collaboration under Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter, it seeks solutions in order to ensure the security of nations worldwide. Charter IV states that the committee is responsible for maintaining international peace and security through the general principles of cooperation and those governing disarmament and the regulation of weaponry as well as to deliver recommendations to the Members or to the Security Council as to what topic to meet on next. Working closely alongside the UNODA, or United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, they are able to work together on disarmament topics such as nuclear, conventional, and weapons of mass destruction. Established in response to the atrocities of World War II, the Nagasaki and Heroshima incidents became the committee's first focus along with growing concerns of the global implications of the atomic bomb. Since then, it has strived to prevent such acts of violence from occurring and threatening international security. Since then, DISEC has successfully dealt with topics ranging from the Syrian arms trade to bioterrorism, cybersecurity, nuclear disarmament, amongst many others. Recently, however, SPECPOL has taken a more specialized approach to many of DISEC's security roles, so the First Committee has been focusing on preventing weapons proliferation, with special emphasis on nuclear weapons since World War II. With the 21st century bringing a technological revolution,

DISEC's responsibilities have expanded to accommodate our growing dependence on data, and how to protect the data, as well as the expansion into outer space. With this, some of the pressing topics dealt with thus far include the issue of international jurisdiction and peace in space, as well as maintaining digital privacy between countries. The 1st DISEC provides a platform for each country to share their views on issues regarding disarmament, global security, and the maintenance of world peace and international collaboration.

Topic: Peaceful and Sustainable Uses of Outer Space

Background:

About ten years after Sputnik 1 was launched into space as the first satellite to do so, the international community saw a need for international agreements regarding outer space and its expenses. As a result, the Outer Space Treaty (OST) was developed, forming as mostly an agreement between the USSR and the US. On the other hand, the Moon Agreement isn't a binding international law because the US, Russia, and China, the major power players within space, haven't ratified the Moon Treaty. This is because one section that the Moon and its resources are the common heritage of mankind and the harvesting of resources isn't allowed without an international regime to govern this exploitation of resources. This essentially means that if any mining is done or other resources are extracted, one entity, which is a country or company in this case, can't have them exclusively. Instead, this entity must share these resources with all nations. Seeing as there are no established borders or areas to stay within, conflicts can easily occur about jurisdiction, as well as responsibility in the case of the destruction of satellites, or collisions, as well as the management of space debris. Private actors have entered space and embraced the possible future economic opportunities in space, with companies especially seeing multitudes of new profitable industries. Venture capital investment, or the integration of private companies, in the sector of space has increased by 2,052% since 2010, and companies who are advancing space's possibilities further, like SpaceX, OneWeb, O3b Networks, and Blue Origin, are prospering. In fact, space overall has been using public-private partnerships with even the International Space Station depending on these partnerships to be created as the greatest engineering feat in human history, and the ISS now facilitates affordable access to space for commercial users, working as a technology testbed for new companies to test and scale their business model, but now, private corporations are more independent. Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty requires nations to be responsible for the private sector and non-governmental organizations in their country regarding their actions of space. Regulation of asteroid mining and satellite servicing is difficult to do however, and countries disagree about how to regulate companies and non-governmental organizations in their nations. On the other hand, many smaller countries feel like this violates the OST's clear statement about space belonging to all in Article II, but privatization of space is the best way to make access to space cheaper. Smaller countries believe that the private sector could have a greater influence in space than them, which is a reality they want to avoid. Seeing as the private sector would be in space before the smaller countries, in turn having more influence, could threaten the future expansion of their space programs. They would not only be in competition with the rest of the global community, but also the private sector. This could allow them to be easily dominated with the private sector potentially spending more money into space than these smaller countries are able to. This leaves the smaller countries at a huge disadvantage. At this point, major players in the space industry like the US, Russia, China, SpaceX, Boeing, Orbital Sciences, Sierra Nevada Corporation,

Virgin Galactic, XCOR Aerospace, and Armadillo Aerospace, amongst many others, dominate outer space. Space debris is a growing issue, with there being 26,000 space objects, with only 2,000 of space objects being working satellites and the rest are defunct rubbish. Anti-satellites, which are space weapons designed to destroy satellites, and greatly threaten the peace and international cooperation in space. The most well known case of the creation of a large amount of space debris deals with anti satellite test (ASAT) of China in 2007, when they shot down their own satellite, called FY-1C, resulting in thousands of pieces of debris, an increase of 25% of space debris, and heavy international criticism of their actions. Debris from the ASAT collided with a small Russian laser-ranging satellite called BLITS, knocking it from its original orientation. ASATs could create conflict between countries as their missiles are capable of destroying other countries' satellites and space stations. Not only is this harmful to the peace between countries in outer space, but it can also be used to show themselves as dominant. Then use that power to take advantage of asteroid mining, surveillance and information gathering, and take space one step forward towards being militarized, among many others. China, Russia, and the United States already have ASATs which makes them dangerous players in space.

United Nations Involvement:

The General Assembly adopted principles and resolutions regarding space, such as the “Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries,” and “Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.” These two agreements have promoted international cooperation by ensuring that outer space is a shared entity, as well as promoting that nuclear weapons do not belong in space, as that can affect both the peace and sustainability in space. Along with these international agreements, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was made soon after Sputnik was launched in 1958, with the UN General Assembly deciding in resolution 1348 (XII) to create it. COPUOS was established as a permanent body and had its mandate reaffirmed in Resolution 1472 (XIV), in 1959. Since then, COPUOS has taken steps to enact guidelines working as “soft law” for those going into space. However, treaties don't address the possible need for measures to reduce the creation of new space debris. Outside of the UN, The Space Law Committee of the ILA (International Law Association) has studied legal aspects of orbital debris since 1986, with the ILA adopting in a resolution a draft “International Instrument on the Protection of the Environment from Damage Caused by Space Debris” in August 1994, serving as the first legal text on space debris agreed to by an international body. Since the space race, five other agreements have been made regarding space, called the Rescue of Astronauts, the Liability Convention, the Registration Convention, and the Moon Agreement. The first four agreements seem to have been agreed to by most countries and seen as not controversial, but the Outer Space Treaty remains as the main text most cite when discussing space law.

Bloc Positions:

Western: Using the information gathered from the satellites and stations launched into space, the Western bloc has furthered scientific discovery, economic prosperity, and the interests of maintaining international peace and security. However, being the majority of the major presences in outer space, they have been involved with several interspace collisions, between their in orbit satellites and other countries. The United States has started research into the ASATs in order to rival China, and the Russian Federation, this, however, not only threatens the sustainability of outer space with the ASATs creating tons of debris, but also the peace as they are capable of destroying another country's technology.

Latin America and Caribbean: Striving for international cooperation the Latin American and Caribbean bloc has agreed to find common aspects in their space programs at the "Space Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Looking to the Future" conference with policy makers from every country in the bloc. This allows the underdeveloped countries in the bloc to be able to have access to the information which the more developed countries have found, making it easier for their own space program to be established. Countries such as Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina do have satellites in space, and are sharing their advancements with countries in the bloc who do not have an established space program as of yet.

African: Having created the African Space Strategy, based in Egypt, which is dedicated towards the economic, social, and political development of the region, the African bloc was able to create 50 satellites between 1990 to 2010. However, with the unstable political regimes in the African continent, the peace and cooperation in outer space may be compromised. Similar to the Latin American and Caribbean bloc, the purpose of this space strategy is so that the more developed countries could share their advancements with the lesser developed countries in order to better the entire bloc. This is what has allowed 19 countries in the bloc to have developed space programs, allowing for their surveillance and information gathering technology to be on the road to matching the Western blocs information gathering technology.

Asian-Pacific: The Asian Pacific bloc meets at the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. Thus far they have adopted two resolutions, the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development. These provide guidelines for the countries in the bloc to have a schedule for further development, launches, and bringing older satellites down, replacing them with newer, more technologically advanced satellites. China, however, has been experimenting with ASATs which are designed to destroy other satellites which threatens both the peace and sustainability in outer space.

Basic Solutions:

When addressing the peaceful and sustainable uses of outer space, delegates should be mindful to stay within the mandate of DISEC and the General Assembly, and focus on solutions regarding disarmament of weapons such as ASATs and maintaining global security and peace. Innovative solutions to ensure the disbanding of weapons, and the cooperation of international entities should be strived towards. As opposed to the cleaning of the debris and other environmental aspects, delegates in the committee should focus on the disarmament of weapons, both of conventional and mass destruction, international jurisdiction and responsibility, management of the private sector in space, and cooperation between countries. For example, since the OST has not been amended since 1967, so undoubtedly, changes need to be made. Revisions to the treaty would allow for guidelines to be established on what is allowed to be launched into space, countries justdiction, as well as responsibility for future debris, and how to ensure the private sector cooperation. Countries which are signatories and have ratified the treaty could meet every five years in the UNISPACE +50 conference, which is run by COOPUS, and is attended by most member states of the United Nations. Meeting frequently would allow for the constantly evolving technological developments in spacecraft and satellite technology to be addressed, and allow for an opportunity to amend the treaty in light of new national and international legislation. Space debris has been proven to be a security threat that affects the global community, and will continue to be a threat in the future, and to combat this, the Aerospace Development Promotion Act is feasible. This is a software targeted to react to security threats in outer space, and can show the international statistics about space debris and ways to avoid it. Used alongside the Owl-Net which is a Korean made satellite to be compatible with the software, it would locate the debris and other extraterrestrial items. Being able to prevent the damage to many of the international satellites, transnational conflict could be avoided.

Questions to Consider:

1. Does your country have a developed space program? If yes, then how many satellites, or crafts have they sent into space, and for what purpose?
2. Are private sector companies which are based in your country getting involved in space? If so, how many are there? What actions has your country taken to manage their presence, if any?
3. In what ways are the established legislations outdated? And what needs to be amended to make it fit the technological advances, political atmosphere, and social developments of today?
4. How can transnational cooperation be promoted? What steps need to be taken in order to make space a place where conflict is scarce? What possible areas of conflict needs to be addressed which are or could threaten peace in outer space?
5. How can we prevent weapons coming to space with the ASAT being possessed by the United States, China, and Russia? In what ways can we make sure that the countries with this weaponry are not using it for malfeasance?
6. How can it be ensured that lesser developed countries who do not have a space program aren't being left behind by the global community? Has your country taken any steps to encourage a bigger space program, if at all, in lesser developed countries?

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