**PatMedMUNCXII**

**United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs**

**Militarization of Space**

For thousands of thousands of years, space has been the only area of the known universe that has been untouched by human conflict. Since the Cold War in the late 1950’s, there has been an ongoing fear throughout the world of the potential of space attacks, whether they come from manned aircraft or automated satellites.

The [Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies](http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/outer_space) (more commonly referred to as the Outer Space Treaty), signed into effect in 1967, set the basic framework for international space law and ongoing peace in space. The treaty specifically prohibits the placement of any weapons capable of mass destruction in outer space or on other planets/celestial bodies. The treaty’s purpose is to keep the intentions and implications of space travel solely for the benefit of humanity as a whole, and not for the claiming of sections of space by a nation. However, since the 1980’s, there have been attempts to update the treaty to fit the modern era of technology and space travel.

However, today more countries have been looking to take their militaries to the stars. For example, in 2018, the President of the United States, Donald Trump, directed the Pentagon to start the creation of a space branch of the US military entitled the “Space Force”. Without a doubt other countries will be soon to follow in their footsteps, bringing Earthly conflicts out into the cosmos. These attacks may be conducted through the use of ballistic weapons, but the most likely outcome would be satellite usage. Satellites have the ability to carry out many harmful actions, from spying and stealing information from other countries to knocking entire countries off of the internet for long periods of time, effectively cutting them off from the rest of the modern world.

Delegates, it is up to you as a committee to determine how the UN should proceed with claims made in outer space. It is important to remember what has been established by the Outer Space Treaty, and to change it however your country seems fit for the new modern age. The goal of the UN is to ensure peace among all nations, so it is essential for you to find a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to this crisis as soon as possible, as to avoid the start of outer space conflicts.

**Points to Consider:**

* Has your country developed weapons capable of space travel?
* Is your country developing weapons capable of space travel?
* What types of satellites has your country launched into orbit?
* How does your country view space travel?

**Helpful Links:**

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/outerspace/>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/gadis3557.doc.htm>

<https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/12/03/2018/weaponization-and-outer-space-security>

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/index.html>