Name: Vedang Gupta

Country: Sultanate of Oman

Institution: United nations office for outer space affairs

Agenda: Revising the Outer Space treaty

76 years back the Launch of Sputnik 1 marked the beginning of the space age displaying the capability of humans to conquer a new frontier, this milestone was followed by the terrifying starfish prime launch 4 years later, which was a warning exhibiting the capability of humans to make a devastating impact on any frontier they choose to. These 2 significant events led to the formation of the Outer Space Treaty. A landmark treaty for its time, it established a clear Framework for the future of humanity's journey beyond Earth. As humanity ventures into the modern age, making unprecedented leaps in science and technology, we need to renegotiate the terms of the treaty ensuring space remains a realm of discovery. With the emergence of new players and pioneer countries, the sultanate of Oman feels it is the right time for the council to discuss the future of humanity's space exploration by revising the Outer Space Treaty.

The Sultanate of Oman recognizes the growing importance of The space frontier and intends to play a key role in

the field. The Sultanate of Oman advocates for the peaceful use of space while keeping the national security of the country in mind. It is a firm believer in building a commercially oriented and competitive space sector as this would allow countries with lower budget allocations to launch innovative technologies in space. The construction of the Etlaq spaceport is a significant step taken to conduct a variety of space launch vehicles. Planned to be completed by 2030 it invites various international space companies to conduct launches of space vehicles ranging from medium to large sizes. Oman also hosted the Middle East Space Conference Strengthening connections and building partnerships between global and regional players. countries discussed the importance of key generations in the Middle East, including future space strategies, space sector financing, and privatization of space in the conference. These align with Oman’s Vision 2040, with the motive of leveraging the country’s geographic and strategic advantages to establish itself as a prominent player in the region. The Sultanate of Oman's Interests lies in amending existing treaties to include laws and solutions to the problems at hand. Special precedence must be given to laying out precise guidelines and regulations for private entities to carry forward peaceful space-faring. Topics such as the utilization of space resources, transparency of countries, and misuse of surveillance satellites vague mention and ambiguity in the outer space treaty should also be discussed.

The Sultanate of Oman would like to discuss the problems regarding the ambiguity of the Outer Space treaty and suggest the following resolutions to some problems. It would be open for further discussion in the council

1)Utilization of space resources in collaboration with countries and international companies

There is not much specific mention of laws regarding the utilization of space resources and ambiguity of the treaty and does not provide any clear laws To avoid any nation having a monopoly of these rescources ,which might lead to future conflicts. Nations and companies should collaborate to utilize space resources sustainably. To further avoid any future conflicts Security Council must appoint a special advisory committee to influence policies encouraging the peaceful usage of space.

2) increasing demand for commercial space launches and entering of private companies into the space frontiers

The Outer Space Treaty covers nations and has no mention of commercial entities.

a) Certain amendments should be made, where private companies can act as individual bodies and take part in space activities. They can collaborate with multiple nations and carry out a variety of activities

b) there should be a creation of a forum between space-faring nations and space-based nongovernment entities. This would increase transparency and the UN can oversee the workings of these organizations. Greater accountability for any mishaps can be achieved with such an arrangement in place.

3) Addressing the concerns in loosely worded treaties must be prioritized. Major amendments especially, to Articles 1 and 4 of the Outer Space Treaty must be discussed involving UNOOSA.

a) Article 4 despite prohibiting nuclear weapons does not prohibit the non-peaceful development of space technology which in turn has prompted countries to deploy weapons like ASATs2.

b) Standardized definitions and military strategy think tanks like the RAND Corporation must be adopted

The sultanate of Oman Believes that the council can come up with amendments that would do justice to the problem at hand and ensure the bright future of space exploration. The sultanate extends its wholehearted support to any decision the council takes

Bibliography

https://2009-2017.state.gov/t/isn/5181.htm#:~:text=The%20provisions%20of%20this%20Treaty,including%20cases%20where%20they%20are

https://www.mtcit.gov.om/ITAPortal/Pages/Page.aspx?NID=583024&PID=581690

https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/space4sdgs/index.html://www.thenationalnews.com/international

https://www.spacesafetymagazine.com/space-debris/kessler-syndrome/iridium-33-cosmos-2251-

years-later-learned-then/

https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fgstc.space%2Fen%2F&psig=AOvVaw3sm3DGDDtxtRI15EMIyqhM&ust=1713593733718000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CAcQrpoMahcKEwiQnZqh0M2FAxUAAAAAHQAAAAAQBA