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Topic: Revising the Outer Space Treaty

*‘You drown not by falling into a river, but by staying submerged in it’*

*~Paulo Coelho*

The Outer Space Treaty is a significant law-making treaty that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 December 1966. It serves as the foundation of International Space Law as well as ensures the peaceful use of Outer Space. UNOOSA’s role is to ensure that international cooperation in the peaceful uses of Outer Space is upheld. It forbids countries from deploying nuclear weapons into Space. It also mentions how all countries should have equitable access and freedom to investigate Space and other celestial bodies scientifically.

Brazil has a significant presence in the space industry, primarily through its national space agency, the Agência Espacial Brasileira (AEB). Established in 1994, the AEB coordinates Brazil's space activities and fosters national and international cooperation. Brazil has several institutions dedicated to space research and education. These institutions are crucial in developing Brazil's space capabilities and nurturing future generations of space professionals. Brazil’s geographic and economic characteristics are also a significant factor in adding to the great potential the country already has to employ space technology to meet national needs.

Those include the country’s continental size, its under-populated land borders, its huge coastline, its tropical forest regions, and the enormous areas characterized by difficult access and sparse population distribution, besides the extensive natural resources still to be surveyed in its territory. Therefore, space applications are directed towards the solution of concrete national problems, in the fields of earth observation (agriculture, environment, natural resources, and territorial organization), meteorology, oceanography, communications, navigation, and geodesy.

Brazil has a robust and growing space program, with a focus on satellite technology, Earth observation, and international collaborations and the nation aims to continue to invest, develop, and expand in outer space research.

Although the treaty has succeeded in upholding most of its key provisions, it is still quite ambiguous in most terms, such as not providing a set meaning for faults or nuclear weapons. It also provides no solution for the rising problem of space pollution due to the increasing number of space debris. It only specifies that the state is responsible for the pollution caused by even non-government institutions.

The delegate of Brazil wishes for all the delegates of UNOOSA to join hands and find solutions for the problems stated. The delegate wishes for the ambiguity in multiple terms provided in the treaty to be solved by providing clearer and more detailed explanations for such terms. The delegate also wishes to suggest the governments of such nations provide incentives to all institutions (government or non-government) to reduce the amount of space debris caused by their space research

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