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Topic: Reforming the outer space treaties

“Space exploration is a force of unity, compelling us to rewrite our rules for a limitless future”

Netherlands, a country well integrated into Europe’s space race, has recognized the need for reforming the Outer space treaties to make way for a wider range of opportunities in space exploration. As a nation committed to international cooperation and responsible governance over such niche subjects, we believe that updating this foundational treaty can prove to be essential in ensuring long term sustainability.

In our country, we have implemented the Space Activities Act which serves as a well-conditioned regulatory framework for all space activities giving great importance to safety, environmental sustainability and compliance with international requests. Ever since its establishment in 2018, the act has proved to be a great tool to regulate all topics based on space activities within our boundaries. However, we have recognized the need for change with our space act as well as the Outer Space Treaties which can bring about greater international cooperation and can help nations combat emerging issues such as resource utilization, debris management and space traffic management. ESTEC (European Space Research and Technology Centre), the largest establishment of the ESA (European Space Agency), has been the go-to place for all preliminary studies for ESA’s space projects. It has also provided technical support and has carefully monitored ESA’s projects.

The Netherlands advocates for a collaborative approach within the United Nations to revise the Outer Space Treaty, incorporating provisions that cater to the current intricacies of space exploration. We propose a well defined and structured mechanism to specifically enhance transparency, accountability and partnership among nations actively taking part in the space race. We additionally emphasize on the importance of tackling issues of the modern-day problems such as sustainability, effective space debris management, equitable resource management, involving of Artificial Intelligence in space exploration and so on. By encouraging open conversations on such topics thus building consensus between countries, we can build a new treaty that guarantees peaceful, sustainable and economically beneficial use of outer space for all to thrive. In conclusion, The Netherlands believes in active discussion to reform the Outer space Treaties, advocating for measures which promote responsible and carefully calculated space governance while upholding the principles of international law. Through shared efforts, we as a nation strongly believe that the future of the space race can become a realm of peace, exploration and shared prosperity.

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