HINDUSTAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
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BACKGROUND GUIDE

NOVEMBER 05, 2025

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS

"Fostering Global Dialogue for a Better Future"

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), we warmly welcome each of you to the Hindustan International School Global Conclave Edition 2 happening on November 5th, 2025. It is a privilege to serve as your Chair and Vice Chairs for this committee.

UNOOSA plays an important role in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. This year's agenda is designed to be both stimulating and relevant to current global developments in space governance. Through your research and preparation, we hope you will develop a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities humanity faces beyond our planet.

As delegates, you will engage in important discussions on issues such as preventing the militarization of space, ensuring fair access to space technologies, and maintaining the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. These issues matter greatly, and your input, teamwork, and diplomacy will be key to creating effective solutions.

We encourage you to approach this conference with open minds and a spirit of constructive dialogue. Your involvement in this committee is not just a simulation of global policy-making; it's a chance to embody the values of international cooperation and responsibility that UNOOSA represents.

This guide is just a starting point — you'll need to go beyond it and do your own research if you really want to win.

Sincerely,

Gautham Vanan

Keshav Rajesh

Vasumithra G.Y

History of the Committee

UNOOSA - United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is the main body within the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. It was established in 1958 as a small expert unit to support the ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). UNOOSA was created due to the increasing importance of space activities and the need for a global framework to ensure these efforts benefit all of humanity.

In 1962, the unit joined the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs and became the Outer Space Affairs Division in 1968. It was restructured as the Office for Outer Space Affairs in 1992, and in 1993, it moved to the United Nations Office at Vienna. There, it took over the responsibility of providing secretariat services to the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, which had previously been handled by the Office of Legal Affairs in New York.

UNOOSA's main mission is to promote the peaceful use of outer space, support the implementation of United Nations treaties on outer space, and help Member States, especially developing countries, build skills to use space science and technology for sustainable development. The Office also addresses new ethical and legal issues related to space activities. These issues include responsible use of orbital resources, planetary protection, and ensuring fair access to the benefits of space exploration.

As humanity plans for more ambitious missions, such as potential manned missions to Mars, UNOOSA provides guidance and coordination to ensure these efforts follow international law and ethical standards. While UNOOSA focuses on cooperation and peaceful applications, questions about the militarization or weaponization of outer space are handled by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Through its work, UNOOSA ensures that outer space remains a realm dedicated to peace, safety, and shared advancement, encouraging dialogue and consistent policies among all nations.

Introduction to the Agenda

The Future of Manned Space Missions to Mars:

Soon, humans will go to Mars — something that has been a long-standing aspiration for scientists and explorers. Space organizations such as NASA and companies such as SpaceX are working on rockets and technology to make this happen.

The primary objectives of such missions are to closely explore Mars, look for life, and ultimately establish a base where humans could live and work. There are huge challenges, though, like long travel time (approximately 6–9 months one way), hazardous space radiation, and the provision of food, water, and oxygen for the astronauts for years.

Though these challenges exist, recent leaps in technology and global collaboration have us at the doors of victory. Within the next few decades, humanity will perhaps finally step foot on Mars — the start of a new space age.

The Militarization of Space - Threats and Opportunities:

Nations have started using space militarily for surveillance, navigation, and communication over time. To improve their security and protect their space interests, the US, China, Russia, and India have led the way in developing advanced satellites and defense systems.

However, there are risky repercussions to this increased militarization. It could lead to an arms race in space, increase the number of dangerous space junk, and raise the possibility of wars reaching beyond Earth.

In the meantime, defense technologies may also present opportunities. They can improve disaster relief systems, global communications, and even navigation accuracy. Making responsible use of space and ensuring that it remains a peaceful and cooperative area for all of humanity is the main challenge for the future.

Key Treaties And Achievements

The 1967 Outer Space Treaty

The Outer Space Treaty, formally known as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, is the foundation of international space law. It forbids national ownership of celestial bodies, declares that space should be used for peaceful purposes, and holds states responsible for their space activities, including those carried out by private organisations.

The 1968 Rescue Agreement

Countries are required by the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space to assist astronauts in need and ensure their safe return to their home countries. It also includes the retrieval and return of space objects that inadvertently fall on a nation's soil.

The 1972 Liability Convention

A launching state is legally liable for any harm its space objects inflict on other states or entities under the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects. In order to maintain safety and accountability in international space operations, it also describes the claims and compensation procedures.

The 1976 Registration Convention

States must register all space objects they launch into orbit or beyond with the UN in accordance with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. By keeping a worldwide log of all active satellites and spacecraft, this promotes openness, traceability, and the safe handling of space traffic.

The Moon Agreement of 1984

According to the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the Moon and its resources are part of humanity's shared heritage. It restricts ownership claims and promotes global collaboration in resource use and exploration. Despite its lack of widespread ratification, it is a significant step towards the equitable and moral management of space resources.

The UN-SPIDER Program of 2006

In order to assist all countries, particularly developing ones, in accessing and utilising space-based data during natural disasters, UNOOSA created the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). Using satellite imagery and geospatial data, it aids in early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and post-crisis recovery.

The 2019 Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) Guidelines

The LTS Guidelines provide best practices for safe and sustainable space activities and were created by UNOOSA's Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). To keep space safe and usable for future generations, they place a strong emphasis on transparency, debris reduction, and international information sharing.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Initiative

UNOOSA encourages the use of space science and technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. It demonstrates how space supports Earth's sustainable development by assisting nations in using satellites for communication, agriculture, disaster management, climate action, and health monitoring.

The Access to Space for All Initiative, 2018

This program, which was started by UNOOSA, gives all nations, particularly those without their own space programs, equal access to space-related infrastructure, data, and technology. It includes collaborations with agencies such as JAXA, ESA, and SpaceX, which provide emerging space nations with opportunities for satellite deployment and practical experience.

The 2015 KiboCUBE Program

KiboCUBE, a partnership between UNOOSA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), enables developing nations to create and launch CubeSats using the Kibo module of the International Space Station. Around the world, it fosters the development of young scientists' and engineers' technical proficiency and capacity for innovation.

Artemis Accords and UNOOSA, 2020s

UNOOSA actively participates in discussions that support openness, peaceful exploration, and collaboration in lunar and planetary missions, despite not being a direct party to the Artemis Accords. In order to preserve harmony in global space governance, it advocates for the Accords' principles to be in line with those of the current UN space treaties.

Global Collaboration and Alliances

To increase space accessibility and data sharing, UNOOSA collaborates with important agencies like NASA, ESA, CNSA, ISRO, JAXA, and private businesses. It encourages gender equality, inclusivity, and responsible space innovation globally through programs like Space4Women and the World Space Forum.

As delegates of the second Hindustan International School Global Conclave, you hold the responsibility of representing your nation's stance with integrity and depth of understanding. Thorough research on the given topics—ranging from the ethical and legal dimensions of outer space to the prospects of future manned missions to Mars—will be key to meaningful participation. This conference offers you the chance to demonstrate your debating, diplomatic, and analytical abilities while fostering cooperation and innovation in addressing humanity's future beyond Earth.

Best of luck, delegates!

Regards,
The UNOOSA Executive Board