

**Delegation from
The Republic of Iceland**

***Represented by
École d'éducation internationale de Laval***

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and International Civil Aviation Organization

The Republic of Iceland would like to thank the committee for choosing the three topics at hand as they highlight important issues for all Member States. They are, the Environment and Space Activity, the Militarization of Space and International Law, and Space Commercialization. The Republic of Iceland is deeply involved in the fight against climate change as our country is touched by environmental problems such as desertification and glaciers melting (Ministry for the Environment, 2010). Iceland believes that the use of military technologies for space warfare should be prohibited in order to secure peace. Iceland is thrilled to work with other Member States in order to provide sustainable solutions that will serve as guidelines for this new frontier that is outer space.

I. The Environment and Space Activity

The Republic of Iceland firmly believes that outer space activities should be accomplished in the respect of the environment as they aggravate the global climate by the release of dangerous substances such as black Carbon in the atmosphere. The release of greenhouse gases increases the temperature of the globe (Background guide, 2016). The Strong commitment of Iceland towards the reduction of climate change is accentuated by its involvement in different major treaties. Iceland ratified the Beijing Amendment to Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer (Treaties Series, 2005), and the Geneva Convention on Long-Range Trans-Boundary Air Pollution (UNECE, 2012). Also, Iceland was a party to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and drafted the matters related to the protocol on the topic of Land-use Change and Forestry (FCCC/CP/1998/INF.4). As a member of UNFCCC, the Republic of Iceland moves to achieve sustainable goals of climate action established by the United Nations by being an example to all Member States. The government implemented measures to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases from 50% up to 70% by 2050 in order to respect the Kyoto protocol (Ministry for the Environment, 2010). Iceland harvests 80% of its energy by hydropower and 20% by geochemical activities, both are clean energies with low GHG (The Guardian, 2008). Iceland is also taxing the production GHG (IMF, 2009). The Republic of Iceland reminds the importance of fighting climate change by reducing the production of greenhouse gases related to space activities by taxing the production of such gases. Furthermore, Iceland moves, with the support of all Member States, to promote renewable energy production by exporting its expertise in the field through intergovernmental programs.

II. The Militarization of Space and International Law

The Republic of Iceland firmly denounces the up growing tensions between States caused by the exponential improvement and interest in military capacities in outer space. Iceland acknowledges the importance of outer space in fields such as communication, weather forecast and positions detection and condemns the use of anti-satellite technology as it jeopardized its peaceful purpose (Background guide, 2016). The Republic of Iceland recognizes that the use of military satellites and space missile are a threat to peace and human development in space. Therefore, Iceland ratified the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (UNODA, 2016). In article IV: "The establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any type of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on celestial bodies shall be forbidden" (ST/SPACE/11). Iceland reaffirms its position against the militarisation of outer space by voting in favour to the draft resolution (A/C.1/60/L.27). Also, as a part the 1967 Outer Space Treaty (Background guide, 2016). The Icelandic government supports a humanitarian and scientifically utilization of outer space. Furthermore, the militarisation of outer space could give the opportunity to claim sovereignty over parts of space, which is a violation of the 2nd article of the treaty (ST/SPACE/61/Rev.1). Therefore, The Republic of Iceland calls for a reinforcement of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty by redefining the rights regarding space activities of the countries with independent orbital launch capabilities to ensure peace and justice to all Member States. Equally, Iceland suggests to undertake new discussions should aiming to redefine the terms of space activities and to secure the space for only humanitarian purposes, and to ensure the sovereignty of all countries and their inhabitants.

III. Space Commercialization

The Republic of Iceland believes that space resources should not be claimed nor be possessed by any Member State. However, Iceland does not have restraints to the execution of space activities by other Member States. The Republic of Iceland was party and implicated to the redaction of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (ST/SPACE/11). Therefore, Iceland calls all Members States to respect these treaties and their implications. Iceland remains implicated on the field. Iceland's territory is utilised for research on the atmosphere such as the studies of high-latitude ionosphere accomplished in collaboration with multiple Member States (Science direct, 2016). Also, The Republic of Iceland allowed NASA's Apollo program to train astronauts on its territory because of its geological formation resembling the Moon's (Exploration Museum, Husavic). Furthermore, Iceland is currently applying to become a part of the European Space Agency (Iceland on review, 2016). However, much remains to be discussed as the Republic of Iceland calls for discussions over the establishment of protocols and guidelines to oversee the space commercialisation. In order to succeed, Iceland suggest to all interested Member States to implement the discussions in Reykjavik as soon as possible under the supervision of the General Assembly. The discussion should give birth to a specialise agency whom purpose will be to ensure the good development and the respect of the resolutions voted.

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