

Country: Pakistan
Council: UNOOSA-ICAO

Space and Environment

For centuries people have been fascinated by the outer reaches of our atmosphere. Many years ago people were bewildered by the fact that there lie resources and water outside of our Earth. Space is a vast field of study, one that people have been working on for a long time. Today, after decades of space travel we are starting to face huge problems. We assumed that our space travel was just a research expedition and that things that happened in outer space didn't affect us on Earth. We were wrong.

We now know that space affects everyone, it contributes to climate change and at it allows monitoring of the Earth, allowing us to prevent natural disasters. In order to ensure that all of our space technology continues to function as it should, we must ensure the proper treatment of the space environment.

The biggest problem in relation to the space environment is space debris. When we send spacecraft and space shuttles into the atmosphere we don't care about what happens to the various parts of the rocket that have dropped off. We have to start caring now, space debris is a huge problem to both the countries currently in space and the countries that wish to enter the realm of space.

Space debris consists of fragments, pieces of rockets, and satellites. Some of these range from being about 10 cm to the size of a pinhead. Now, even though these fragments are small relative to a spacecraft, the speed at which they travel at is what causes all the havoc. Extensive maneuvers have to be taken in order to completely ensure that no damage occurs.

Previous UN actions include passing major resolutions without a vote like 70/82 and 70/230. More and more space agencies around the world are now taking an interest in the environment of space and our establishing guideline for the mitigation of space debris.

Pakistan strongly believes in climate change policy and believes that the issue of space debris and the rest of the space environment should be tackled effectively. Pakistan has recently developed many climate change policies within its borders and will continue to utilize space effectively with its international allies. We believe in international cooperation for the mitigation of the space environment. Pakistan believes that it is important to ensure that good regulations are put into place in order to ensure that the issue of space debris is tackled effectively. Furthermore, the issue of ensuring that the entire space environment is treated with respect and that the international community works together to develop environmental safety guidelines.

Possible Solutions

Huge International Cooperation on all fronts

- Reduction of Space Materials

- Reduction of environmentally hazardous activity(i.e. Anti-Satellite Systems)

- Planned Demise

- Sharing of technology to maneuver around the space debris to all nations involved in space

Space Militarization

Currently, many countries around the world are moving towards the so-called weaponization of space, they are looking towards slow deploying weapons into space. Pakistan believes this is unacceptable. This is in no way fair to the smaller nations of the Earth who have just started a space program. With the passage of the Peaceful uses of outer space, it is important to note that currently, we have some type of legislation in place to ensure that the usage of space is carried out effectively and peacefully. The definition with the treaty are quite vague and it is important to build on them and reduce ambiguity in such an important document.

Around the world, an arms race in space is beginning to unfold. We must stop this race in space and ensure that space continues to be used for peaceful purposes, as it has been for the past few decades.

Much of the reason that there has been a slower movement towards the militarization of space is the fact that many resolutions and treaties have been previously passed by the UN in order to stop an arms race.

Previous UN action includes the 5 Major Treaties that were created as the basis for international space law. Many of these agreements have been upheld by member states, however, some nations are crossing the line when it comes to these treaties. Pakistan condemns those who aren't party to these treaties. International space will become the foundation for the rest of our generations and if member states cannot afford to come to a consensus in terms of space law then that would be detrimental for everyone.

The major treaties are

Resolution 70/27 was passed by the general assembly on December 11th, 2015. This resolution outlines that states must work together in order to ensure that an arms race doesn't take place in space. Militarization is not a priority for Pakistan and many other nations around the world. Pakistan is currently focusing on the development of its research programs and launching more satellites into space for the aggregate benefit of its residents.

Pakistan has worked on many draft UN resolutions in order to prohibit the use of military action in space. Pakistan firmly believes that space shouldn't be considered into military doctrine. As whole it would be detrimental to all those who have entered the space realm.

Pakistan currently doesn't have the capability to launch anything into outer space. Working with its allies like China, Pakistan successfully launched PAKSAT into orbit. It is important to note that the militarization of space would be extremely detrimental to Pakistan's R&D missions as well as its missions to monitor the environment.

That is why Pakistan wholeheartedly condemns the militarization of space.

Possible Solutions

The establishment of an ad hoc committee to discuss international law throughout space and to prevent an arms race

Establishment of a UN Mandated space agency to promote international cooperation and confidence in space measures.

Encourage Nations to voluntarily give up militarization of space for the common good of the people.

The Commercialization of Space

Many countries and corporations around the world are moving towards developing space technologies in order to commercialize space. Some wish to develop the technology required to mine asteroids and others are looking into space tourism. The commercialization of space is a big issue, one that affects all those that enter the realm of space. The United Nations must develop specific regulations for the commercialization of space or encourage all nations to abide by the pre-existing Moon Treaty, that declares that space “is the common heritage of mankind.” Currently, only a few countries have signed and ratified this treaty, among those nations, is Pakistan. The Moon Treaty was a supplement to the treaty on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space. Pakistan believes in working with Nations to reach a common goal. It is enshrined in our constitution to uphold international peace. We believe in international cooperation and believe in resolutions for the common good.

Pakistan believes that the ratification of the Moon Treaty by other countries should be one of the first steps to make international law. It is important to note that the ratification of the Moon Treaty doesn't disallow states from participating in commercial activities in outer space. Pakistan believes that for many countries in the world space commercialization is not an issue as many countries around the world are struggling to build up their space program. Furthermore, Pakistan believes that if space commercialization was to take place it must take place in a setting that is mandated and overseen by the UN. It is imperative that we develop some type of international law or treaty ensuring the complete regulation of outer space activities. Pakistan believes that it is not a priority to commercialize space and is currently looking towards socio-economic growth in its own country.

Possible solutions:

The establishment of better legislation towards commercialization

Encourage nations to sign and ratify the moon treaty

Incorporate parts of international law into national law

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