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Country: Republic of India

Committee: United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and International Civil Aviation Organization

Often times, we forget that the consequences of environmental pollution, militarization and the push for economic growth through commercialization not only impact life on earth, but that the extent of their effects reaches the realm of outer space.

In an effort to minimize the consequences of outer space pollution and to regulate militarization and commercialization, several protocols such as the Outer Space Treaty, have been signed and conferences, notably the UNISPACE conference, have been held in order to monitor and examine these issues. The Republic of India recognizes the significance of the matter, thus, moving for greater emphasis to be put on the articles of the treaty regarding the placement of nuclear objects or weapons in orbit so as to limit radioactive by-products, reduce pollution and reinforce the notion of peace that is the core principal of said treaty. However, India’s commercial space industry is worth but a fraction ($1 billion) of the $324 billion[[1]](#footnote-1) the global industry is worth and is not reaping as many benefits as other countries are. Thus it must focus on privatizing its space industry.

By implementing the Outer Space Treaty, a major step has already been taken in the effort of mitigating growing issues. Thus, 103 countries have signed and ratified it, while 23 have yet to do so. Countries are subject to their own regulation policies as there is no international guideline put into place such as emissions caps to govern and control damages caused by pollution.

Moreover, the treaty presents an ambiguous front regarding the militarization of outer space. Whilst pushing for a peaceful cooperation between countries it in no way restricts weaponization[[2]](#footnote-2), which not only leads to further pollution but also impacts the economic standing of countries creating a more pronounced economic disparity.

The Republic of India believes that in order to successfully implement the Outer Space Treaty, countries must move to reassess the terms of the agreement of the protocol in order to establish clear distinctions between certain articles. Importantly, countries must work together by combining resources in order to further reap the benefits of research as well as commercial benefits. Finally, it is proposed that the regulation of pollution be removed from a countries jurisdiction and that binding targets, similar to those in the Kyoto protocol, be assigned to countries regarding outer space pollution, in order to order emissions and more effectively target weak points and bring about modifications in an effort to curb pollution.

1. Sanat Kaul “Not Beyond Reach- Access an Equity to Aerospace Transportation : India” https://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=0ahUKEwidzqmTnJjQAhVh7oMKHZdiD9gQFggrMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.icao.int%2FMeetings%2FSPACE2015%2FPresentations%2F4%2520-%2520S.%2520Kaul%2520-%2520IFFAAD.pdf&usg=AFQjCNFGIezqfsfL1SWBC99ez\_qgKyOtLA&sig2=JA9VLL2GTVCpQHIrUTUkXA [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. NTI “ India Urges Strengthening Outer Space Treaty” <http://nti.org/20809GSN> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)