*Delegation from Represented by*

Republic of Ecuador John Abbott College

Ecuador and UNOOSA – ICAO

The Republic of Ecuador is grateful for the invitation to this year’s UNOOSA – ICAO committee. Despite being a small country of South America, Ecuador is an important representative of South America on the topic of space exploration. The Ecuadorian Civilian Space Agency (EXA) has been privately founded in 2007 and is now the main space organization of the Republic of Ecuador, under the supervision of the Ecuadorian Air Force. EXA’s main interest in space exploration has been to conduct scientific research and Ecuador supports that this stance is a push for the development of science and will greatly benefit the educational system.

Ecuador is a firm believer in the Outer Space Treaty, having signed the agreement in 1967. However, the country believes that it is of utmost importance that countries responsible of debris should be held accountable. The country has personally been affected by debris in the past as it’s only satellite was pummeled by Soviet space debris. Ecuador believes that before any form of space exploration continues to expand, there should be an international agreement regulating debris and keeping countries responsible of their own debris. Moreover, Ecuador firmly believes that space exploration should proceed with an environmentally conscious outlook. Ecuador’s natural environment is its greatest resource and therefore should not be affected by space exploration. Therefore, soot is a major issue with space exploration and Ecuador suggests to put in place measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Though militarization of space could be a possible venue for development, Ecuador is a strong believer that space should be utilized for scientific purposes and development of new technologies primarily. Weaponizing space would simply lead to more debris, rendering space useless to any other country. Moreover, space war would be difficult to regulate and the current state of the overpowered United States will undoubtedly give them an unfair advantage. Space should be reserved for scientific exploration where physical militarization leading to added debris and possible human deaths is illegal.

Finally, the current space colonization through tourism is a disgrace. It simply executes the wishes of corporate greed while endangering the environment around it. If there is to be commercial development in space, it is to be highly regulated and corporations should be held accountable for every impact it will have for Earth and space alike. Furthermore, tourism activities should be joined by scientific research as this could limit the environmental impacts and allow both research and tourism to take place. For instance, the Republic of Ecuador is currently interested in programs such as the International ‘Moon Village’, where through international cooperation, humankind could perform scientific research on extraterrestrial bodies. Conversely, Ecuador believes that space mining is only a means to increase the wealth disparities between countries and should therefore be made illegal. It will add to the amount of space debris and simply cause additional pollution on earth, and 2nd and 3rd world countries will have to deal with the environmental consequences of 1st world countries.

In conclusion, despite its relatively small space organization, Ecuador is an important proponent that space exploration will have important consequences on our homeland, planet Earth and that space exploration should always be joined by scientific research.

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