SSUN Position Paper – Dominican Republic – UNOOSA/ICAO

# Introduction:

The Dominican Republic is a nation that occupies two thirds of the island Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea. This country has a history of political turmoil that involved being colonized multiple times and has put the country in serious economic stress. Although the Dominican Republic has yet to begin any kind of space program, we still believe these are important issues that affect us and need to be discussed on a global scale. We hold the issue of further conflict in space and the pollution of both space and earth caused by activity in space for very seriously as they can have massive, and sometimes horrendous impacts on the entire world. The Dominican Republic is prepared to create policies and make regulations that ensure space can also be a place to explore and create amazing technology to improve life and earth, while still ensuring that we maintain the health and safety of the planet on which we currently reside.

# Topic 1: The Environment and Space Activity

The Dominican Republic has always felt very strongly about protecting and preserving the environment, as our country is home to a diverse collection of life. This is why the Dominican Republic believes that we have a duty to help protect the environment and to make policies ensure that everyone is making the same efforts, both on earth and beyond the atmosphere. Climate change is a growing concern in our world today and we must take every action to prevent it, including making any necessary changes or regulations to ensure that environmental standards and climate change prevention efforts are being made in space. We also would like to point out the serious issue of pollution that we have created on our planet and we do not believe we could ever justify allowing governments and independent organisations alike to further pollute the earth and beyond for the purpose of space exploration. We understand the importance of working and exploring in space but the Dominican Republic believes that the condition of our planet should be prioritized above all.

To try and resolve these issues, we believe it is in order to set restrictions and guidelines concerning activity in space. To start we must acknowledge the issues of launching satellites and space crafts and more specifically the emission called black carbon which has been proved to affect global warming on an incredible scale with only carbon dioxide having a larger impact. Taking steps to reduce black carbon emissions caused by space crafts is essential in our mission to reduce global warming and we therefore believe that countries should be held accountable the pollution produced by their space crafts. Each country with its own space program and each independent commercial space program should be encouraged to develop or adhere to existing policies and standards concerning efficient and environmentally safe space crafts, satellites and rocket launches, such as the policy China imposed called Environmental Protection Law. This law holds launch industries accountable for ensuring that measures are taken to protect the environment and I believe all space agencies should have the same regulation as well as regulating use non-renewable resources is regulated and no space craft or rocket that has emissions over a certain concentration is allowed to launch.

The Dominican Republic understands that much of life on earth relies on the use of satellites in space but would like to point out that we would be much worse off without clean air then we would be without the use of cellphones, GPS, and other such conveniences made possible by technology in space.

# Topic 2: The militarization of space and international law

The Dominican Republic recognizes Militarization as a large problem for every country as it poses the threat of another arms race and can widen the already large power gap that puts poorer countries at a disadvantage both on an economic level and compromises defence. As a country that is facing economic hardship and has faced military threats, invasion, and colonization, we are strongly in support of any measures that would prevent further militarization of space. The use of space is incredibly important but we have to use it for the right reasons, such as communication, mapping, and weather predictions; not to create more conflict and loss of life. We should be using the new innovations to help countries build and rebuild their economy and defense systems so that in time space can be accessible to everyone on a global scale instead allowing of those who already have such unthinkable advantages to claim even more power. The point of the United Nations is international cooperation and that involves ensuring that no country is left at such a severe disadvantage and at such a risk for an attack.

# Topic 3: Space Commercialization

Although the Dominican Republic does not have any sort of space program – for commercial or scientific purpose – we still believe that like any other commercial industry, space travel must be regulated. However, we do not believe that it is the responsibility of the UN to create or impose policies of independent companies. It should fall to the country in which they reside to hold them to standards that ensure the safety of all passengers, the protection of the environment and that it follows the same corporate standards as all other industries. We agree that it is up to this council to lay out the general standards that these companies much reach and encourage countries to hold companies accountable; there is not much that our council can do past this.

# Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Dominican Republic recognizes that while space s truly the next frontier, it should not in any way be the priority of governments and that each space program is required to take actions to ensure that both outer space and earth remain safe despite their activities outside the atmosphere.