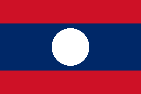
[](https://www.google.ca/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwifhMLx8pXQAhVBQCYKHfDtAV4QjRwIBw&url=https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Laos&psig=AFQjCNHdQ58OYo2IXlCMHAD9x92TRKVJNQ&ust=1478582417197004)SSUNS Positon Paper: UNOOSA- ICAO



Delegate of Laos

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THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPACE ACTIVITIES

Since the early 20th century, space travel and discovery has gone from being a dream in the distance to moments away from being a reality. There are many countries on Earth which exist both upon the Earth, and have probes, satellites, and men in space researching and expanding the human race further into the universe.

Laos has recently joined the planet in its outer worldly activities, working with the space agency in China to gain standing on this in the international community. While working with China, Laos began its own satellites program, launching their first public telecommunications satellite (De Selding, 2015). Most of the policies which exist in Laos’s space program have been derived from those of the rest of the world, focusing on countries nearby (De Selding, 2015). Other than this, there is very little else which the country has done in the international space community. Through all this expansion and discovery, many scientific, social, and political breakthroughs have been made, bettering mankind. In addition to this however, the environmental impact of space activities is undoubtedly changing the way in which we interact with the Earth and each other on a day to day basis. This would be in ways such as climate change, heating up the Earth, and due to black carbon, disrupting signals and transmissions from satellites to people.

To address some issues which exist in the international community today, Laos is working to help resolve these, forming its own space program in order to be able to contribute more meaningfully in the global community (DeSelding, 2015). To gain resources for shuttles and rockets, a new way to travel to space must be researched to allow for less wasteful resources. For monitoring space activities, a council of the UN (such as this) would be used to make sure that all satellites stay in orbit and work, decreasing the amount of space debris. Many countries are present in space, and in the current economy, it makes sense for certain countries to assert themselves to gain financially, but when speaking as a whole planet, the designation of country should be dismissed to allow for humanity to work together. Discussing environmental issues, the current state of the environment cannot be sustained for long, and the pollution caused through the launch of rockets and space debris can be drastically reduced if a new, eco-friendly way of space travel is implemented.

THE MILITARIZATION OF SPACE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Many ideas of weapons in space have been designed, but none have truly been implemented as yet. Laos has a very underdeveloped military due to the harsh, yet improving, economic conditions (Central Intelligence Agency, 2016). To prevent one country from using weapons in space, international laws have been put in place, allowing not only safety in space, but also improving conditions on Earth.

Due to the struggling conditions in Laos, the country has remained unable to attain the state of achieving the militarization of space. In the case of other countries, the UN has implemented and upheld the rules and regulations of international laws, making it impossible for superpowers such as the United States of America to develop weapons in space (The United Nations, 2016). In addition to international laws on militarising space, these laws help to unify the Earth under one set of rules and basic rights given to every human being, allowing for the development and discovery of new technologies and ideas.

These laws help to prevent countries from entering an arms race, a battle of technological advancements allowing for the winner to overpower the loser, which deviates the world from catastrophic results. Some new ways in which an arms race could be prevented would be to share all technological advancements, making it impossible for any single country to become dominant over another. This also decreases the technological imbalances which exist, allowing for countries to improve the ways of life in developing countries. For example, comparing Laos to China, the latter has a much greater stand in technology and in the general standard of living. If China were to share its technology with Laos, the economy would increase greatly. As well, to allow for the international laws to be expanded to space, they must first be enforced worldwide. For example, international humanitarian laws must first be achieved on earth, making it the norm allowing for the same to be followed in space.

SPACE COMMERCIALIZATION

People have always dreamed of visiting the cosmos, being in space and looking down upon their home from above. With developing technologies, this may soon be a reality, allowing regular, everyday people to visit space. While this has many advantages, it also has many disadvantages, and should not be looked at only as an opportunity to make money, but the dangers which come along with taking civilians to space, must also be considered.

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic has contributed little to the idea of space commercialization, focusing more on the country’s development (Central Intelligence Agency, 2016). Many other states have begun delving into this topic, researching cost effective ways to transport people to and from space. But more successfully, third parties such as SpaceX have become prominent players in development and discovery of space rather than governments (Christ, 2014). This would mean there are greater resources and innovation being put towards this, but also mean it is not for the public’s best interests, rather for a gain or profit.

In general, the funding which goes towards NASA should be equaled to the funding which will go into developing the method of transport to space. This would come from both government and private entities to allow for not only reduced cost for both, but also to allow for information transfer between the two parties, making the information public. However, before actually launching a commercial enterprise, the dangers and extent of research must be laid out. A most general timeline would end at direct travel to space. Before starting commercial use, extensive tests must be done to see if it will withstand day-to-day usage. Once that has been accomplished, more scientific ideas should become the research priority of the governments and people. This will allow for countries to grow and limit the rate at which this commercialization occurs. To ensure that the passengers are safe during the trip, many precautions must be taken, such as having multiple safety nets, as well as having emergency landing procedures. This can then be extended to regular flights, in order to decrease the environmental problems which current flights cause, with the new technology being much greater in environmental standings.

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