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**UNOOSA - ICAO**

Delegation: **Spain**

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# Topic #1 The Environment and Space Activity:

As a member of the European Space Agency, Spain plays a critical role in advancing space technology while understanding the environmental impacts of space exploration.

A significant problem that faces the advancement of space technology is the threat of space debris that is present in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) (ESA, 2013). According to the ESA, as of right now there are about 3300 intact objects in LEO but a target that Spain believes is appropriate to reach is having 2500 objects instead (ESA, 2013). This is because with 2500 objects in orbit, the probability of collisions will be reduced by 50% (ESA, 2013). Another important issue concerning the environment and space is the issue of black carbon, which is a by product of space rocket combustion (EPA, 2016). The country of Spain believes that these two issues are the two most important issues that must be solved throughout the course of debates.

The country of Spain believes that for the threat of space debris, the world must not compromise country’s abilities to conduct space missions and instead would like to propose several other steps to reach the threshold of 2500 objects (ESA, 2013). Several options that Spain would like to pursue to solve this problem include removing satellites and other objects that are decommissioned objects through a controlled de-orbit (ESA, 2013). By performing this process, the amount of space debris can be limited through this and the remaining debris can be removed through active debris removal, which is a process that uses an external vehicle to dispose of the object (ESA, 2013). The other issue Spain feels is important is the issue of black carbon, which must be mitigated through cleaner fuels and new technology to remove black carbon particles (EPA, 2013). As such Spain supports increasing scientific funding to research more efficient removal of black carbon as immediate removal will have positive effects on the environment (EPA, 2016). Ultimately Spain believes that these problems must be addressed to help advance scientific research in a manner that acknowledges the environment.

# Topic #2 The Militarization of Space and International Law:

As a sponsor of many past resolutions on the issues of militarization of space and international law, the country of Spain believes that this topic is a major cause for concern.

In order to prevent some countries from around the world advancing their space military technology to a greater extent than others, Spain proposes more transparency from the global community in regards to space weaponry. Through the release of these scientific studies, countries can ensure that their space program is more advanced ultimately narrowing the imbalance of space technology. In addition to this, the new technology discovered can be used in other technological fields in order to solve other problems both in space and on Earth.

However, Spain believes the only true way to prevent an outer space weapon arms race, is to take several actions. Spain firmly believes that all countries must disclose all their military expenses annually to the secretary general to ensure that countries are not attempting to pursue space weaponry (UN, 2005). By ensuring that all countries disclose their information, Spain believes that more transparency will be achieved which may discourage countries from investing heavily in outer space military programs. Spain also supports confidence-building measures between states in order to ensure that the development of space weapons is for defensive purposes only (UN, 2005). By participating in these confidence producing measures, countries from around the world may become more comfortable with countries advancing their space weaponry. However, it is important to note that Spain firmly believes the best way to end the arms race is to end the production of space weapons. This approach is not realistic and that is why the country of Spain feels that these solutions are a viable alternative option.

# Topic #3 Space Commercialization:

As a member of the ESA, and a country that helped establish the ISS, Spain believes the topic of space commercialization to be an important issue that is often ignored by the international community.

The topic of space tourism is increasing in popularity year by year, and Spain feels that this is an important issue in order to ensure the safety of all passengers and crew. Spain firmly believes that legal framework must be established between countries before space tourism can occur on a regular basis (ESA, 2013). Because space tourism may take place in the airspace of other countries around the world, it is essential that a resolution is passed concerning this important problem (ESA, 2013). It is also important to note that Spain believes that in longer space travel instances in the future where passengers are travelling into space and beyond, rules for conduct and space law must be established in order to make sure that no lives are in danger of being lost.

Another important issue related to space commercialization that Spain believes is important is the issue of security. As demonstrated in the past, terrorism attacks can occur within vehicles such as planes and as such it is entirely possible to occur in spacecraft too. Because of this significant risk to not only the passengers on board, but to the population of Earth, space tourism must be strictly regulated in order to ensure that there are no potential threats aboard a spacecraft. By doing this, the world can ensure that all space travel is safe for the passengers on board and not an issue for the citizens of the world.

# Works Cited:

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