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

**Assigned Country:** Algeria

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**Topic 1: The Environment and Space Activity**

The exploration of space is considered to be an important driver for socio-economic development, as it allows the discovery of new resources and new methods of energy storage. However, in order to ensure the galaxy and its environment are protected while space activities occur, proper international agreements must be established. Space debris orbiting the Earth must be eliminated as much as possible, so that astronauts face less danger. The emanations of black carbon from rockets must also be regulated, as they contribute significantly to climate change. While the Outer Space Treaty has already been formed, it needs to be improved to create clearer and better detailed policies that will not only prevent countries from damaging outer space, but allow the entire international community to benefit equally from space activities, as outer space is the “common heritage of mankind”.

The People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria founded the Algerian Space Agency in 2002[[1]](#footnote-1). It was also during this year that Algeria went from the status of observer to permanent member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the UN Committee that formed the Outer Space Treaty[[2]](#footnote-2). While Algeria is not a signatory country for said treaty, it nevertheless became a party to the agreement by accession, in 1992. The nation attaches a big importance to the issue of space debris, and fully supports the adoption of the “space debris mitigation guidelines” by the Committee[[3]](#footnote-3). Algeria itself has not yet adopted a national mechanism for the reduction of space debris, but it aims to choose a site that can accommodate a space debris observatory and to implement appropriate national solutions[[4]](#footnote-4). So far, the country has launched two satellites and has two more in development, with the goals of broadening its autonomy and its knowledge in communication technology[[5]](#footnote-5).

Taking all of this into account, it is obvious that outer space still remains an unclear sector for the international community. Therefore, policies found in the Outer Space Treaty must be better defined and made clearer to allow countries to follow very specific guidelines while conducting any outer space activity, which will prevent any harm caused to the galaxy. In terms of the reduction space debris, our nation suggests that countries follow the procedures set by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on “the protection of environment of the geostationary satellites orbit”.

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

With the advancement of technology, countries are progressively looking to militarize and to weaponize outer space for their own benefits. This mainly concerns the United States, who unlike other countries, are willing to invest large sums of money for this purpose. However, nations such as China and Russia, longtime rivals to the Americans, will also seek to expand their power in space. A major arms race will thus grow as more and more countries become interconnected. This will result in power imbalances throughout the international community, an unavoidable waste of massive amounts of resources, and potential armed conflicts, creating even more space debris. When it comes to space warfare, it is necessary that the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) develops new humanitarian laws for space conflict focusing on distinction, necessity, and proportionality. These three principles must be better defined for outer space situations to ensure the protection of civilians is kept as a priority.

The People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria has launched two satellites and is currently developing another two[[6]](#footnote-6). Out of these four projects, none of them have any military objectives[[7]](#footnote-7). In fact, Algeria signs the General Assembly’s Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) resolution every year[[8]](#footnote-8). Under this treaty, “State Parties would commit to refrain from placing objects carrying any type of weapon into orbit, installing weapons on celestial bodies, and threatening to use force against objects in outer space[[9]](#footnote-9).” Because of this, the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria has no plans to either militarize or weaponize outer space, as it believes an arms race in outer space would represent a grave danger for international security and peace[[10]](#footnote-10). However, due to the country’s unwillingness to place weapons or at least satellites with military functions, nations such as the United States, who refrained from signing the PAROS treaty[[11]](#footnote-11), may gain a significant advantage over Algeria in the militarization of space, creating an imbalance in space technologies between the two countries.

In order to prevent a space arms race, it is necessary to strengthen the Outer Space Treaty as well as the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) resolution, so as to ensure that no country will launch any weaponized technology into space. Our nation insists that space is the common heritage of mankind, and the deployment of weapons into outer space would not only create imbalances between nations, but also comprise the use of space for peaceful purposes. Regarding the development of the International Humanitarian Law, Algeria suggests that the circumstances, the means and the information available be deciding factors in judging the proportionality of an attack in outer space.

**Topic 3: Space Commercialization**

It should come to no surprise that countries are always looking to grow and develop their economy. Many have turned towards outer space, which offers a significant amount of opportunities, such as asteroid mining and commercialized sub-orbital flights. Mankind’s knowledge of space is also strengthened, especially with the establishment of the International Space Station (ISS), a research facility shared by many nations and where several commercial missions have already been made. However, many of the commercial projects proposed have various security concerns, as well as a lack of legal regulations. Moreover, the United States have allowed the possession of space resources by companies, which violates the rules set by the Outer Space Treaty and creates confusion as to who truly gets to benefit from space commercialization. Therefore, the international community must come together and make sure the proper regulations are set in place in order to ensure that space commercialization is done safely and that every nation may benefit equally from it.

The Algerian Space Agency (ASAL) promotes the development of space activities that will contribute to Algeria’s economy[[12]](#footnote-12). It plans to launch 10 satellites by 2017 that will “put space technology at the service of social and economic development of the country[[13]](#footnote-13).” In fact, Algeria’s two satellites, AlSat-1A and AlSat-2B, both collect data and imageries which allow the nation to monitor and manage its agriculture and rural development, and oil and mine resources, which are all elements of Algeria’s economy[[14]](#footnote-14). Though Algeria is not an official partner of the International Space Station (ISS), it has nevertheless participated in the installation of a big telescope at the station, through a number of Algerian researchers as well as by contributing in the financing of the project[[15]](#footnote-15). Currently, the Algerian Space Agency, along with the launch of its two satellites, is attempting to train engineers in different area of space activities, which will allow the nation’s space program to thrive in the coming years with the goal of improving their economy[[16]](#footnote-16). However, as the country invests much less into its space program than countries such as the United States, it may face a disadvantage as space resources like asteroids will be claimed by other nations first[[17]](#footnote-17).

With all this being said, our country believes that space should remain the common heritage of mankind. Therefore, the People’s Republic of Algeria recommends the development of international regulations resembling the SPACE Act of 2015, however, with the necessary modifications made in order to respect the Outer Space Treaty. This act paves the way for the private sector to develop successfully, which is greatly encouraged by our nation, as Algeria itself can greatly benefit from a diversification of the economy with the bolstering of the private sector. Investments should thus majorly come from the private sector. As for space tourism, we must ensure that the proper health and safety requirements are set in place in order to guarantee the protection of potential tourists in the galaxy.

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