Republic of Erin Richardson

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United Nations Office for Outer Space Agency – International Civil Aviation Organization

*ICAO’s Vision and Mission*

“Achieve the sustainable growth of the global civil aviation system.”

“To serve as the global forum of States for international civil aviation. ICAO develops policies and Standards, undertakes compliance audits, performs studies and analyses, provides assistance and builds aviation capacity through many other activities and the cooperation of its Member States and stakeholders.”

*Overview:*

The Republic of the Philippines is located in South-Eastern Asia, Manila being its capitol. It hosts a population of just over 100,000 people, predominantly speaking Filipino and English. Rodrigo Duterte was elected as the President and Chief of State since June 30th 2016. The Philippine’s economy has remained resilient and has accounted consecutive surpluses since 2003. Economic growth has grown at an accelerated rate; however, unemployment rates remain high. The government is working to increase the funding of education, healthcare, and social spending programs. Governance, the judicial system, the regulatory environment seek improvement. The country’s GDP per capita is $7300, which is the 153rd highest in the world. By sector of origin, agriculture makes up 10.3% of the GDP, industry makes up 30.8%, and services makes up 59%. About one quarter of the population is below the poverty line, and taxes make up 15.9% of the GDP. The Philippines is considered a developing country.

The Philippines is a member of the Group of 77 (G-77), “which provides the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system, and promote South-South cooperation for development.” The country is also a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Asian Group. The Philippines is a party to Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ). The country belonged to the Spanish Republic until 1898, when Spain gave the Philippines to the USA, which they then became independent of in 1935.

Traditional allies include Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, and Cambodia. The country has strong ties with Japan, India, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, and Saudi Arabia. The Philippines is disputing with the People’ Republic of China, but relations have increased. It has been separating itself from the West in recent years.

Topic I: The Environment and Space Activity

*Importance*

As outer space affairs become more prevalent and crucial in our society and the economy on a global stage, it is important to identify the impacts that the current industry has on the environment and the health of all. Subsequently, these impacts must be acted upon and minimized for the benefit of all. This committee must place priority upon increasing the, not only financial, but environmental sustainability of outer space affairs, such as launch activities. Why is there focus on space exploration, tourism, and finding another planet to live on? It is due to the fact that the human race has over polluted and damaged our own to the point that we will need somewhere else to live. The very measures necessary to explore outer space are contributing to a prime concern right here at home. So instead of making matters worse while looking for a solution, why not work to reduce the impact of space activity and focus on the environment?

*Development Concerns to Keep in Mind*

* Space Economy: space for the development of the economy
* Space Society: evolution of society and societal benefits stemming from space-  related activities
* Space Accessibility: strengthening of national space infrastructures and capacity building

Space Diplomacy: building partnerships and strengthening international cooperation in space activities

*Suggested Areas of Focus*

Focus on reducing the environmental impact of rocket launches, especially at a local level: consider pollution in the habitats of wildlife, launch failures, dropped pieces from multistage rockets

Focus on eliminating the use of nuclear power sources in outer space activity

Focus on developing technology for the purpose of tracking space debris in order to better predict collision probability and therefore allow for greater preparation for a change route and the implementation of avoidance maneuvers.

Focus on not only reducing the impacts that space activity has on the environment, but utilizing the resources accessible through space exploration to monitor and develop solutions for climate change. In addition, focus on applying space technology to better understand global water cycles and limit the effects of floods and droughts.

Topic II: The Militarization of Space and International Law

*Importance*

As the world and the technology it has become dependent on continue to expand, the militarization of outer space becomes an increasingly urgent discussion to be had. Its consequences have the potential to be astronomical, and it is in the best interest of this committee to reduce risks by regulating and ensuring responsibility within the militarization of space.

*Past Efforts and Progress*

“[A] resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS) is introduced and adopted by an overwhelming majority of UN member states. In fact, every country in the world votes in favor of negotiating a treaty on PAROS—except for the US and Israel, which abstain”. China and Russia have efforts to further negotiate measures related to PAROS, despite the deadlock of the conference on disarmament.

“The U.S. delegation to the UN's First Committee of the General Assembly, a body where international talks on disarmament issues are often discussed, voted against the draft resolution on Wednesday, as did Israel, Georgia and Ukraine”. Syria and China voted in favour.

*Goal*

“To enhance global security by implementing uniform security measures around the world, a goal that cannot be achieved without an unswerving commitment by all concerned.”

*Suggested Areas of Focus*

Focus on the prevention of an arms race in space. Considering that there is not currently an arms race, it is now the time to take action to prevent one from occurring.

Focus on establishing a code of conduct to ensure that space activity is rules based, transparent, and inclusive.

Focus on increasing the cooperation between this body and other United Nations committees.

Topic III: Space Commercialization

*Importance*

Commercial space activity is an ever-increasing industry, currently worth about $323 billion. Space technology is improving, aerospace activity is increasing, and there is a growing demand for greater accessibility to space for the public. It is clear that space commercialization holds great potential in many aspects, whether it be resource, business, research, or global unity oriented. But how will private companies be regulated, how will different nations cooperate, and how will we maximize the resources available? These aims and regulations are critical and essential to discuss.

*Suggested Areas of Focus*

Focus on transitioning to a self-sufficient space industry, rather than one which relies on governments.

Focus on enabling private and commercial companies to take on projects previously allocated only to NASA in order to maximize access and budgeting, and therefore success.

Focus on reducing the bottleneck effect that has limited groups and companies from using their innovations – All satellites capable of taking photos require a license from the government, and this has extended the amount of time people must wait before putting their products to use.

Focus on reducing project planning from being controlled by a small group of people, and allow a great amount of people to work together to utilize space to its potential.

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