



Regulating Private Space Exploration: Balancing Innovation, Equity, and International Responsibility in the New Space Age

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Letter From the Executive Board:

Greetings fellow humans! This is Aditya, Charish, and Adhira; The Executive Board of UNOOSA - United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs! Now you might be nervous seeing as this is the first time you're leaving the atmosphere and entering Space, and that's normal. But fear not, this document contains every step to achieve light speed understanding of the Committee. Please make sure to fully read this document before you lock in to research your Country/Organization. There are multiple sources and websites you can find that will help with your research immensely. What to do, what not to do, what we expect from each and every Astronaut(delegate), and obviously that you enjoy every moment you spend during the conference.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is the UN body that promotes international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. It ensures that the space activities are for the benefit of all mankind irrespective of the level of development of the country. UNOOSA supports countries in developing space policies, promotes satellite applications for sustainable development, and facilitates international work on issues such as space debris, planetary protection and space law. It also is important in implementing international space treaties. In Model United Nations, the UNOOSA committee serves as a platform for delegates to engage in discussions on emerging challenges such as the commercialization of space, its militarization and the equitable access to space technology, thereby promoting cooperation and innovative solutions for the future of space exploration.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THE DELEGATES:

The Executive Board expects delegates to approach this committee with thorough research, professionalism, and a willingness to engage in constructive diplomacy. Delegates should possess a clear understanding of their assigned country's policies, national interests, and stance on private space exploration while remaining open to negotiation and consensus-building. We encourage participants to move beyond simply identifying challenges and instead propose innovative, practical, and internationally viable solutions that balance technological advancement with

sustainability, equity, and accountability. Delegates should actively participate in debates, moderated and unmoderated caucuses, and contribute meaningfully to drafting comprehensive resolutions. Respectful conduct, adherence to the Rules of Procedure, and effective collaboration are essential throughout the committee. Ultimately, we hope every delegate demonstrates critical thinking, diplomatic skill, and a commitment to shaping the future of responsible and peaceful space governance.

BASIC KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AGENDA:

Introduction to the New Space Age

The 21st century has marked a dramatic shift in the nature of space exploration. Unlike the Cold War era, where space activities were dominated by state-led agencies, the modern era is defined by the rise of private corporations. This transformation, often referred to as the “New Space Age,” has introduced unprecedented innovation, accessibility, and competition.

Private companies have significantly reduced launch costs through reusable rocket technology and increased efficiency in satellite deployment. This has enabled not only governments but also universities, startups, and even smaller nations to participate in space-related activities.

However, this rapid commercialization has also created serious challenges. Outer space, once viewed as the “province of all mankind,” is increasingly becoming a domain of economic competition and strategic advantage. Without proper regulation, this shift risks turning space into a fragmented and unequal environment.

Delegates must analyze how this transition impacts global governance and consider whether current systems are sufficient to manage this new reality.

Role of UNOOSA and International Space Governance

UNOOSA plays a central role in promoting the peaceful use of outer space and facilitating international cooperation. It supports the implementation of key treaties and works closely with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

The Outer Space Treaty (1967) remains the cornerstone of international space law, establishing that space is free for exploration and cannot be claimed by any nation. The Liability Convention and Registration Convention further reinforce accountability and transparency.

Despite their importance, these frameworks lack specific provisions addressing private corporations. UNOOSA primarily functions as a coordinating and advisory body rather than an enforcement authority, which limits its ability to regulate modern space activities effectively.

Delegates must evaluate whether UNOOSA should be strengthened institutionally or whether new global regulatory mechanisms should be developed alongside it.

Evolution of Space Exploration and Law

Space exploration has evolved through distinct phases, each shaping the legal and political landscape differently.

During the Cold War, space law was focused on preventing conflict and ensuring peaceful coexistence between superpowers. The emphasis was on avoiding territorial claims and militarization.

The post-Cold War era introduced cooperation, with multinational projects like the International Space Station demonstrating shared scientific progress. This period laid the groundwork for collaborative frameworks.

The current commercial era is defined by rapid innovation and private sector leadership. However, this shift has exposed the limitations of existing legal systems, which were not designed to regulate non-state actors.

Delegates must consider how international law can adapt to ensure consistency, fairness, and enforceability in a rapidly changing environment.

Rise of Private Space Companies

Private corporations have transformed the space industry by introducing competition, efficiency, and new business models. Their involvement spans launch services, satellite networks, space tourism, and future plans for colonization.

Their achievements include reducing costs through reusable systems and increasing the frequency of launches. This has accelerated technological progress and expanded global access to space-based services such as communication and navigation.

However, their growing influence raises concerns about accountability and governance. Private companies operate under national jurisdictions, but their activities often have global implications.

Additionally, profit-driven motives may conflict with long-term sustainability and equitable access. Delegates must explore ways to integrate private actors into international frameworks while maintaining oversight and responsibility.

Regulatory Challenges and Legal Gaps

A major issue in modern space governance is the lack of a unified regulatory framework. Different countries have varying laws, leading to inconsistencies and potential loopholes.

For example, some nations have well-developed licensing systems for private companies, while others have minimal regulation. This creates opportunities for regulatory avoidance and complicates enforcement.

Jurisdictional challenges also arise when companies operate across multiple countries. Determining responsibility in cases of accidents or violations becomes complex.

Delegates should consider solutions such as harmonized international standards, stronger compliance mechanisms, and improved coordination between national authorities.

Space Debris and Environmental Sustainability

Space debris has become one of the most urgent challenges in modern space exploration. Thousands of inactive satellites and fragments currently orbit the Earth, posing risks to active missions.

Even small debris can cause significant damage due to high orbital speeds. Collisions can generate more debris, leading to a chain reaction known as the Kessler Syndrome.

Private companies launching large satellite constellations contribute to congestion, increasing the likelihood of collisions. Without proper regulation, this could compromise the long-term usability of key orbital regions.

Delegates must consider measures such as mandatory deorbiting, improved tracking systems, and international cooperation on debris mitigation strategies.

Resource Extraction and Space Economy

The possibility of extracting resources from space has gained significant attention. Materials such as rare metals from asteroids or water from the Moon could support future space missions and economic development.

However, the legal status of these resources remains unclear. While the Outer Space Treaty prohibits national appropriation, it does not explicitly address private ownership of extracted materials.

Some countries have introduced national laws allowing companies to claim resources, which has sparked international debate.

Delegates must address questions regarding ownership rights, environmental impact, and equitable distribution of benefits, ensuring that resource exploitation does not lead to conflict or inequality.

Militarization and Security Concerns

Space is increasingly becoming a domain of strategic importance. Many technologies developed for civilian purposes can also be used for military applications, creating concerns about dual-use capabilities.

Private companies may develop systems that support surveillance, communication, or defense operations. This blurs the line between civilian and military activities.

The lack of transparency and regulation increases the risk of escalation and conflict. Additionally, anti-satellite weapons and cyber threats pose serious challenges to security.

Delegates must explore ways to enhance transparency, build trust, and prevent the misuse of space technologies while maintaining national security.

Equity and Global Access

Ensuring equitable access to space is a fundamental principle of international space law. However, disparities between developed and developing nations continue to grow.

Advanced countries possess the technology and resources to dominate space activities, while others struggle to participate. This imbalance risks creating a divide where only a few benefit from space exploration.

Space-based services, such as communication and Earth observation, are essential for development. Ensuring access to these services is critical for global progress.

Delegates should consider policies that promote inclusivity, such as technology transfer, capacity-building programs, and international partnerships.

Ethical Considerations in Space Exploration

Space exploration raises complex ethical questions that go beyond legal frameworks. These include the responsible use of resources, environmental preservation, and the long-term impact of human activity in space.

The concept of space as a shared heritage of humanity suggests that its use should benefit all, not just a select few. This principle must guide decision-making.

Ethical considerations also extend to future generations, emphasizing the need for sustainable practices.

Delegates are encouraged to incorporate ethical reasoning into their policy proposals, ensuring that actions taken today do not compromise the future.

Role of International Cooperation

International cooperation is essential for effective space governance. The global nature of space activities requires collaboration between nations, organizations, and private actors.

Joint missions, shared research, and multilateral agreements help build trust and reduce the risk of conflict. Cooperation also enables resource sharing and collective problem-solving.

However, geopolitical tensions and competition can hinder collaboration. Delegates must find ways to balance national interests with global responsibilities.

Strengthening international partnerships will be key to addressing the challenges of the New Space Age.

Delegate Preparation and Committee Strategy

Effective participation in this committee requires thorough preparation and active engagement. Delegates must understand both the technical and political aspects of the agenda.

Research should include national policies, international treaties, and current developments in space exploration. This knowledge forms the foundation for strong arguments and proposals.

During committee sessions, delegates should communicate clearly, collaborate with others, and contribute constructively to discussions.

Drafting well-structured resolutions and building consensus are critical skills. Successful delegates balance national interests with global perspectives, demonstrating both leadership and diplomacy.

Conclusion

The regulation of private space exploration is one of the most complex challenges of the modern era. It requires balancing innovation with responsibility, competition with cooperation, and national interests with global welfare.

As humanity expands its presence beyond Earth, the need for effective governance becomes increasingly urgent. Delegates must work together to ensure that space remains a domain of peaceful, sustainable, and inclusive progress.

The decisions made in this committee will shape the future of space exploration and its impact on humanity.

KEY TERMS

Key Terms

1. Private Space Exploration

Space activities conducted by privately owned companies rather than government agencies. These activities include satellite launches, space tourism, lunar exploration, and missions to Mars.

2. Commercialization of Space

The increasing involvement of private companies in developing, operating, and profiting from space-related technologies and services.

3. Space Sustainability

The responsible use of outer space to ensure that future generations can safely access and utilize space resources and orbital environments.

4. Space Debris

Defunct satellites, rocket stages, and fragments left in Earth's orbit that pose collision risks to active spacecraft and future missions.

5. Low Earth Orbit (LEO)

The region of space extending approximately 160–2,000 km above Earth's surface, where most satellites and the International Space Station operate.

6. Geostationary Orbit (GEO)

An orbit approximately 35,786 km above Earth where satellites rotate at the same speed as Earth, allowing them to remain fixed above one location.

7. Satellite Constellation

A coordinated network of multiple satellites working together to provide services such as global internet, navigation, or Earth observation.

8. Space Mining

The exploration and extraction of valuable resources from celestial bodies such as the Moon, asteroids, or planets for commercial or scientific purposes.

9. Space Tourism

Commercial space travel designed for private individuals rather than professional astronauts.

10. Outer Space Treaty (1967)

The foundational international treaty governing activities in outer space. It establishes that outer space shall be used for peaceful purposes and cannot be claimed by any nation.

11. Liability Convention (1972)

An international agreement that establishes liability for damage caused by space objects launched by states.

12. Registration Convention (1975)

A treaty requiring states to register objects launched into outer space to promote transparency and accountability.

13. Moon Agreement (1979)

An international treaty stating that the Moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of humankind, though it has limited international acceptance.

14. Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

A collaborative arrangement in which governments and private companies work together to achieve shared objectives in space exploration and technology development.

15. Space Governance

The system of international laws, policies, institutions, and agreements that regulate activities in outer space.

16. Planetary Protection

Policies and practices designed to prevent biological contamination of Earth and other celestial bodies during space missions.

17. Launch Provider

A government agency or private company that offers launch services to place satellites, spacecraft, or astronauts into space.

18. Space Traffic Management (STM)

The planning, coordination, and monitoring of space activities to reduce collisions, manage orbital congestion, and ensure the safe operation of spacecraft.

19. International Responsibility

The obligation of states under international law to authorize, supervise, and bear responsibility for national space activities, including those conducted by private entities.

20. New Space Economy

The rapidly expanding global space industry driven by private investment, commercial innovation, emerging technologies, and increasing participation by non-governmental actors.

EXTRA INFORMATION:

OUTER SPACE TREATY:

The Outer Space Treaty (OST) is the foundation of space law. It was written by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). It states that no country can own the Moon. It also bans nuclear weapons in space and requires peaceful exploration for all. For your Model United Nations (MUN) conference, keep these core rules of the treaty in mind:

- No Ownership:** The Moon and other planets belong to all of humanity. No nation can claim a piece of space as their own.
- Peaceful Use:** Celestial bodies like the Moon must be used only for peaceful purposes. Military bases and weapons of mass destruction are banned.
- State Responsibility:** Governments are responsible for all space activities. This means countries are also liable for any damage caused by private companies they allow to launch into space.
- Help Astronauts:** Astronauts are viewed as "envoys of mankind". If they are in distress, all nations must help them.
- No Harm:** Countries must avoid making space dirty (contamination). They also must not harm the environment of space.

LIABILITY CONVENTION:

The Liability Convention (formally the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects) is a 1972 United Nations treaty. It sets rules for who pays for damage caused by satellites, rockets, and space debris. It ensures states are legally and financially responsible for all space objects launched from their territory.

Key Rules and How They Work

The treaty sets up two different types of responsibility depending on where the damage happens:

- Absolute Liability:** If a space object crashes on Earth or hits an airplane in flight, the launching state must pay for the damage. You do not need to prove the state did something wrong; they are automatically at fault.
- Fault-Based Liability:** If a satellite damages another country's satellite in outer space, you must prove who is at fault. The state responsible for the accident has to pay.

Who Files the Claim?

- State-Level Only:** Even if a private company (like SpaceX) causes damage, the injured person or company cannot sue them directly under this treaty. Instead, the victim's country must file a diplomatic claim against the launching country.

Who Pays?

- Joint Responsibility:** If multiple countries help launch one

rocket, all of those countries are responsible to pay for the total damages. You can read the full text of the treaty via the UNOOSA Liability Convention Summary.

THE MOON AGREEMENT:

The Moon Agreement (or Moon Treaty) is a 1979 international treaty that tries to set rules for how countries and companies explore and use the Moon and other celestial bodies. It makes sure the Moon is used for peace and declares that no single country can own it.

Key Rules

The agreement expands on the older 1967 Outer Space Treaty with four main ideas:

- Peace Only:** The Moon can only be used for peaceful tasks. No weapons, nuclear bombs, or military bases are allowed.
- No Ownership:** No country, business, or person can own the Moon's land or soil.
- Shared Riches:** The Moon and its natural resources are the "common heritage of mankind." This means that if anyone mines the Moon's materials, the benefits must be shared fairly with all of humanity.
- Shared Science:** Countries must tell the United Nations Secretary-General what they are doing and share their scientific discoveries.

Who is Part of It?

The Moon Agreement has very little power in the real world. Only a few countries (around 17) have signed and ratified it. None of the major space-faring powers—like the United States, Russia (or the former Soviet Union), China, or India—have joined the treaty. Because the big space nations are not part of it, it does not stop modern space races or private companies from planning to mine the Moon.

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SPACEX:

SpaceX, officially known as Space Exploration Technologies, is a private aerospace manufacturer and space transport services company founded in 2002 by entrepreneur Elon Musk. Headquartered in Brownsville, Texas, SpaceX has gained recognition for its innovative approach to rocket and spacecraft design, significantly transforming the landscape of space transportation. Notably, it was the first private entity to send spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS) and to transport astronauts there. The company is known for its reusable Falcon rockets, which aim to reduce launch costs while enhancing spaceflight reliability.

SpaceX's ambitions extend beyond Earth; it has outlined plans for missions to Mars, aspiring to facilitate human settlement on the planet. The company has secured multiple contracts with NASA, contributing to various projects, including the Artemis program, which aims to return humans to the Moon. Despite facing challenges and controversies, including safety concerns and environmental lawsuits, SpaceX has firmly established itself as a leader in the aerospace industry, achieving a record of ninety-six orbital launches in 2023 and continuously pushing the boundaries of private space exploration.

BLUE ORIGIN:

Blue Origin is a space flight company working towards a vision of millions of people working in space to benefit Earth. Well-known for their New Shepard reusable suborbital rocket, the company is developing the New Glenn orbital rocket and looking towards the Moon and beyond. LGO graduates have been part of Blue Origin's operations for years, and the company is eager for LGOs to tackle challenges across every stage of the company's development cycle. Potential internship projects include spacecraft supply chain architecture, using manufacturing data analysis to help increase rates, and maintenance planning for space operations. LGO full-time hires may enter a two-year business

rotational program and enjoy executive mentoring and the chance to lead DEI outreach.

ROCKET LAB:

Rocket Lab Corporation, a space company, provides launch services and space systems solutions in the United States, Canada, Japan, and internationally. The company operates through launch services and space systems segments. The company provides launch services, spacecraft design services, spacecraft components, spacecraft manufacturing, optical systems, and other spacecraft and on-orbit management solutions and constellation management services, as well as designs and manufactures small and medium-class rockets and develops flight and ground software. It also designs, manufactures, and sells Electron, an orbital small launch vehicle for small spacecraft launch services, as well as develops Neutron launch vehicles for large constellation deployments, interplanetary missions, and potentially for human spaceflight. In addition, the company designs and manufactures a range of components and subsystems for its launch vehicles and spacecraft. It serves commercial, aerospace prime contractors, and government customers. Rocket Lab Corporation was formerly known as Rocket Lab USA, Inc. and changed its name to Rocket Lab Corporation in August 2021. The company was founded in 2006 and is headquartered in Long Beach, California.

Case Studies

Case Study 1: SpaceX's Starlink Satellite Constellation

SpaceX's **Starlink** project aims to provide high-speed internet across the globe through a constellation of thousands of satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). While the project has significantly improved internet connectivity in remote and underserved regions, it has also raised concerns regarding orbital congestion, the increasing risk of satellite collisions, and the generation of space debris. Astronomers have further expressed concerns that the brightness of Starlink satellites interferes with astronomical observations. This case highlights the challenge of balancing technological innovation with environmental sustainability and equitable access to orbital resources.

Case Study 2: Blue Origin and Commercial Space Tourism

Blue Origin has pioneered commercial suborbital space tourism through its **New Shepard** launch system. The company has successfully transported private individuals beyond the Kármán Line, marking a significant milestone in the commercialization of human spaceflight. However, this development has sparked debates regarding passenger safety, environmental impacts, accessibility, and the extent to which governments should regulate private human spaceflight. The case illustrates the need for internationally recognized standards governing commercial space tourism.

Case Study 3: NASA–SpaceX Commercial Crew Program

The Commercial Crew Program represents one of the most successful public-private partnerships in space exploration. Through this initiative, NASA collaborated with SpaceX to transport astronauts to and from the International Space Station (ISS). The program reduced dependence on government-operated launch systems and significantly lowered operational costs. At the same time, it demonstrated the increasing reliance of governments on private companies for critical space missions,

raising important questions regarding oversight, accountability, and long-term governance.

Case Study 4: Lunar Resource Exploration and the Artemis Program

The Artemis Program seeks to return humans to the Moon while establishing a sustainable long-term presence. Several private companies are involved in developing lunar landers, habitats, and infrastructure. These developments have intensified debates over whether private entities should be permitted to extract and commercially utilize lunar resources. While some states support commercial resource utilization, others argue that the Moon should remain the common heritage of humankind under existing international law. This case highlights the legal uncertainty surrounding extraterrestrial resource extraction.

Case Study 5: Rocket Lab and the Rise of Commercial Launch Providers

Rocket Lab has become one of the leading commercial launch providers specializing in small satellite missions. By offering frequent and affordable launches, the company has expanded access to space for governments, universities, and private organizations. However, the growing number of commercial launches has also increased concerns regarding launch licensing, orbital traffic management, environmental sustainability, and international liability for accidents. This case demonstrates how the commercialization of launch services has transformed the global space industry and created new regulatory challenges.

Case Study 6: Astroscale and Active Space Debris Removal

As the number of satellites in orbit continues to increase, space debris has emerged as one of the greatest threats to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Astroscale, a private Japanese company, is developing technologies designed to remove defunct satellites and orbital debris from space. Its missions demonstrate the growing role of private companies in preserving the orbital environment while also raising questions regarding ownership, liability, and international cooperation in debris removal operations.

Case Study 7: India's Space Sector Reforms

India has traditionally relied on government-led space activities through ISRO. In recent years, however, the Government of India has introduced reforms allowing private companies such as Skyroot Aerospace and Agnikul Cosmos to participate in launch services and satellite development. These reforms aim to encourage innovation, attract investment, and strengthen India's commercial space industry while maintaining regulatory oversight. The Indian experience provides an important example of how governments can balance private participation with national interests and public accountability.

Questions a Resolution Must Address (QARMA)

1. Do we need a universal international regulatory framework for private space exploration?
2. What should be the role of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in overseeing and coordinating private space activities?
3. Do you think private space companies should need to get international permission to go on missions outside of the Earth's orbit?
4. How do we foster innovation and investment in the commercial space sector whilst ensuring accountability and compliance with international law?
5. What can the international community do to ensure that the commercialization of outer space benefits all countries, including developing countries?
6. Who is responsible for accidents, collisions or environmental damage caused by private space missions?
7. What can be done to reduce space debris and to ensure the long-term sustainability of space activities?
8. Is it acceptable to allow private companies to mine, own or otherwise commercially exploit resources on the Moon, asteroids or other celestial bodies? If so, on what terms?
9. How can current space treaties be revised to respond to the rapid development of private space exploration?
10. What mechanisms should be established to resolve disputes between states, private companies and other stakeholders operating in outer space?
11. Should international environmental standards be imposed for the protection of celestial bodies from contamination and irreversible damage?
12. How can we enhance transparency, information sharing and international cooperation between governments and private companies?

13. What standards should be established for the deployment of large commercial satellite constellations to reduce orbital congestion, radio-frequency interference and the production of additional space debris?
14. How do public-private partnerships contribute to peaceful, sustainable and inclusive space exploration?
15. What policies can ensure fair access for developing countries to space technologies, infrastructure and commercial opportunities?
16. Should there be an international licensing, monitoring and compliance mechanism for private space companies? If so, which international organization should be in charge?
17. How can the international community prevent the outer space and its resources from being monopolized by a few states or private corporation?
18. What ethical principles should guide future human settlements and commercial activities on the Moon, Mars and other celestial bodies?
19. What rules should govern commercial space tourism to ensure passenger safety, environmental responsibility, and compliance with international law?
20. What kind of long-term governance structure should be put in place to ensure that outer space remains a peaceful, sustainable and shared domain for the benefit of all humankind?

WEBSITES TO RESEARCH:

UNITED NATIONS

UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs)

<https://www.unoosa.org>

COPUOS (Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space)

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/index.html>

United Nations Treaty Collection

<https://treaties.un.org>

UN Digital Library

<https://digitallibrary.un.org>

UNOOSA – World Space Agencies (Excellent for country research)

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/space-agencies.html>

SPACE AGENCIES

NASA

<https://www.nasa.gov>

European Space Agency (ESA)

<https://www.esa.int>

ISRO

<https://www.isro.gov.in>

JAXA (Japan)

<https://global.jaxa.jp>

China National Space Administration (CNSA)

<http://www.cnsa.gov.cn>

PRIVATE SPACE COMPANIES

- **SpaceX**
<https://www.spacex.com>
- **Blue Origin**
<https://www.blueorigin.com>
- **Rocket Lab**
<https://www.rocketlabusa.com>
- **Axiom Space**
<https://www.axiomspace.com>
- **Astroscale**
<https://astroscale.com>

RESEARCH AND POLICY

[Secure World Foundation](https://swfound.org)

<https://swfound.org>

[CSIS – Aerospace Security Project](https://www.csis.org/programs/aerospace-security-project)

<https://www.csis.org/programs/aerospace-security-project>

[Space Foundation](https://www.spacefoundation.org)

<https://www.spacefoundation.org>

[The Aerospace Corporation – Center for Space Policy and Strategy](https://aerospace.org/policy)

<https://aerospace.org/policy>

SPACE NEWS

[SpaceNews](https://spacenews.com)

<https://spacenews.com>

[Space.com](https://www.space.com)

<https://www.space.com>

MUN PROCEDURE:

We all gotta start somewhere, right? Within Model United Nations, the Roll Call is normally used to check who is attending, and how many people are attending. Through this, the Chairs are able to calculate the majority which is required within procedural and substantial voting. When you hear your country's name, you can simply reply with “Present.” If you want to spice things up, and declare how serious you are about the topic that is being discussed, you can also say “Present and Voting.” But beware! This comes at a cost. If you use “Present and Voting.” you are NOT able to abstain during substantive votes, meaning you have to truly have an opinion on a matter.

Once the list has been read, you continue to the next Step.

Opening the Debate: Setting the Agenda

Depending on your MUN this process may differ. Sometimes you will be given one subject before entering the debate, in which this part is technically unnecessary. If you have been given multiple possible topics to discuss however, it will depend on you and the other delegates which one will be chosen. You should be careful with these things – depending on your country and their positions, you might have a certain preference for one topic, therefore you should really try to get the discussion topic which fits you best off the ground. Setting such an agenda, requires a motion.

You raise your hand/placard (if your MUN provides placards, use placard) , and wait until the Chair acknowledges you. You ONLY speak, if the Chair acknowledges you. This is a universal rule, which is present in all sections of the MUN debate (except for the unmoderated caucus). Once you have been acknowledged, you say your country's name and move to place your preferred topic first on the agenda. Remember to always speak as an ambassador of your Country. No “I's” allowed! It's “we”, your country's name, or “as the representative of Structurally you have:

1. The Opening of the Debate

- Roll Call
- Setting the Agenda

2. The Debate

- Opening Statements
- The General Speakers List

- Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses
- Draft Resolutions

3. Closing the Debate

- Voting Procedure

Opening the Debate: Roll Call

f Country Name.”

Some MUN’s choose to have a brief discussion between two representatives of the two different topics, if there is no clear preference. Either way, once a motion has been raised, the Chairs will call for a procedural voting process, meaning that delegates are unable to abstain and MUST vote. Only a simple majority is needed.

Huzzah! A topic has been raised, the Countries have been counted. The actual Debate can now proceed.

The Debate – Opening Statements

Once a topic has been chosen, each state’s delegate, according to the alphabetical order of each State present, will give an opening speech in which they briefly outline their opinion on the matter at hand. Within your opening speech, you can: position yourself with like-minded countries to already try to secure an alliance and raise specific themes within the topic that your country particularly cares about. This is your moment to steer the discussion in a way that benefits your country. As you listen to the other Countries opening debates, it may be a good idea to make some notes, to see who cares about what aspect of a problem, and who you might find yourself to be in agreement or disagreement with regarding certain issues. This is really useful for later on when you have to create Draft Resolutions with other Delegates. Once this process is over, the discussion will move on to the General Speaker’s List.

The Debate – The General Speakers List

The GSL is essentially your default section within a discussion. Chairs will establish a time limit that each speaker should adhere to, and Countries can then ask to be added to the list, taking turn to speak in the order the Chairs have provided.

Within the GSL, a delegate can aim to move the debate into a direction they would like to see, this is your moment to look for people who would vote for you, if you were to raise the motion for a moderated Caucus. Others might disagree, and are able to answer you within their time frame on the GSL. To join the GSL, you wait for

the Chair to ask who wants to be added to the list, at which moment you should raise your placard, until they acknowledge you. If you finish your speech before your allotted time is over, the Chair may open the remainder of the time for other Delegates to ask you a question, which you then are able to answer, you may let your time seize, or you may give your time to another Delegate. What the best choice is truly depends on your tactical reasoning for it.

Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses

While the GSL is ultimately a tool to allow general discussions, sometimes one needs to spend more time on certain specifics, in which case one can call for an unmoderated or moderated caucus. A moderated caucus requires speakers to only hold speeches based on the topic at hand. It might be fruitful to raise a motion for a moderated caucus on a certain topic (for a certain amount of minutes, with a certain amount of speakers time), if, within the GSL, a trend towards such a topic was already foreseeable. This is an opportunity to really shape the debate, and more often than not, multiple motions for multiple moderated caucuses exist at the same time, so voting is necessary. Pro Tip: Normally the longer motion takes precedence within a voting procedure, and the secondary motion will only be voted on, if the first one doesn't get enough votes. Hence, it's not a bad idea to make your own motion just a tad bit longer than the others. Being tactical is key within the MUN World!

Now, an unmoderated Caucus is a whole other tactical game. Within it, general rules cease to exist for a while, and one is able to be within a freeform debate, no turns, no points, no speaking time, You are allowed to move around within a room , you get to meet the other countries in a more personal manner, and you get to negotiate and write your draft resolutions. This is where you look for cooperation amongst other states and try to create something based on your shared values. Like the moderated caucus, a motion for this has to be raised. It's a procedural vote, so no abstaining is possible. The unmoderated caucus takes time for as long as the allotted time allows.

Draft Resolutions

Ah, Draft Resolutions. The big bad of the MUN world. Having to write a document which follows its very own rules, uses a specific type of language and is generally supposed to be very professional in how it is handled sometimes really makes people want to turn on their tail. Understandably so! Now, this article isn't specifically here to teach you how to write a draft resolution, but we would always recommend doing some research on this matter before participating in writing one.

Sure – you could always make someone else do it, but it's an open secret within the MUN World, that the one holding the laptop, and writing the document is King.

Now- What really is a Draft Resolution? A draft resolution is a document which states the proposed solution of the issue at hand and is supposed to be representing the viewpoints and the agenda of those who have written and signed it. It must have a minimum number of sponsors who support it and will vote in favor of it, once debates have ended. The number of necessary sponsors differs based on the Council and the Chair, according to the size of a Committee.

Once a draft resolution is finished, it should be sent to the chair who will then hopefully approve it, at which point a motion may be raised to introduce it to the rest of the Council. You then get to read the operational clauses, one by one, within a certain time frame. Afterwards, countries are able to ask for amendments regarding the clauses you have written. If an amendment is friendly, that means no one has objected to the change within a clause, and it can be written anew accordingly. If a sponsor however should decide to object, a vote must follow.

Amended clauses are unable to be re-amended, so make sure you truly do not object to a change being made within your resolution.

Closing the Debate:

For a draft resolution to be voted for, the GSL must first be closed, hence one must either wait until the GSL list runs its course, or one must raise the motion to close the debate. If two-thirds agree and are in favour, the debate will end.

If there is more than one draft resolution on the table, the committee will vote on the one which had been handed in first, based on their serial number. Hence, it's also important to act quick in getting together a group and writing a professional and well worded Draft Resolution.

The Committee then votes on the Draft Resolution.

Voting Procedure:

The voting procedure is a substantive vote for everyone except those countries which said that they are "Present and voting." Meaning, that everyone who said that they are present at the Roll Call gets to either vote "Yes", "No", or gets to abstain. You are furthermore not allowed to abstain if you are a sponsor for the draft resolution at hand.

Once voting is completed, and a proposal has been passed, it becomes the resolution of the committee, at which point the council will move on to the next topic that was on the agenda. If it should however fail, the draft resolution next to the first one will be voted on. Once one has been approved, or all have been voted on, one moves on to the next topic.

Position Paper Guidelines

A Position Paper is a concise document that outlines a delegate's country's stance on the committee agenda. It should reflect official government policies, demonstrate thorough research, and propose realistic solutions consistent with the country's national interests.

Format

- **Font:** Times New Roman
- **Font Size:** 12 pt
- **Line Spacing:** 1.5
- **Margins:** 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all sides
- **Alignment:** Justified
- **Length:** 1–2 pages
- **File Format:** PDF
- **Page Numbers:** Bottom Centre

Heading

Committee: United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

Agenda: Regulating Private Space Exploration: Balancing Innovation, Equity, and International Responsibility in the New Space Age

Country: _____

Delegate: _____

Structure

I. Introduction

Briefly introduce the agenda and explain why it is significant from your country's perspective.

II. Country's Position

Discuss your country's:

- National interests
- Existing space capabilities
- Relevant domestic laws or policies
- Position on private space exploration

- Participation in international space treaties and cooperation

Support your arguments with official government statements, policies, or international agreements wherever possible.

III. Proposed Solutions

Present practical and realistic recommendations that align with your country's foreign policy. Delegates are encouraged to suggest international cooperation, legal reforms, technological initiatives, funding mechanisms, or regulatory measures that address the agenda while respecting national sovereignty.

IV. Conclusion

Summarize your country's overall position and reaffirm its commitment to constructive international cooperation in ensuring responsible, peaceful, and sustainable private space exploration.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit the Position Paper before the prescribed deadline.
- Ensure that all information reflects your assigned country's official policies.
- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Proper citation of sources is encouraged.
- Position Papers should be written in formal diplomatic language.
- AI-generated content should be used responsibly and verified with official sources.

Evaluation Criteria

Position Papers may be evaluated based on:

- Understanding of the agenda
- Accuracy of country policy
- Quality of research
- Practicality of proposed solutions
- Organization and clarity
- Grammar and presentation
- Originality and diplomatic writing style

