

Draft Resolution: VAAS-MAN: Vigilantly Against Anti Space- Measures and Notions

Author: Austria

Co-Authors: Germany, Nigeria

Signatories: Ghana, Madagascar, Portugal, Russia, Cuba, Sweden, Saudi Arabia,
Zimbabwe, Thailand, Iraq

Deeply concerned about the exploitation and maltreatment of outer space and its resources which were proclaimed common for all humankind to explore by the Outer Space Treaty of 1967,

Fully aware of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and that all the solutions for the further peaceful use of outer space should align with that,

Bearing in mind the motives of the “Space2030” (Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly for the refinement of our society,

Having considered further that the need for global governance in outer space will assist in the works of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER),

Deeply concerned that the existence of weapons in outer space will pose a solemn threat to global peace and security as well as the welfare and security of the upcoming future generation,

The United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee Special Committee for Politics and Decolonization,

- 1) **Recommends** the creation of a committee named the United Nations Space Mining Committee (UNSMC) under the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the following purposes:
 - a) To regulate and monitor the actions of countries and private space companies in outer space under the context of “space mining”,
 - b) To serve as a platform where nations would collaborate and could mine certain parts of a celestial body, such as the moon or any other related body,
 - c) The organization would be actively involved in determining the split of these resources and would also take a part of the resources or the corresponding cost for the resources, to supplement the United Nations’ budget as a whole,
 - d) This committee would be formed by experts on the topic as well as one representative per country, who would be nominated by the country,
 - e) The committee shall also be headed by a chair, appointed by the United Nations,

- f) The members of this committee would meet up once every 6 months to discuss and determine the further activities of the committee,
 - g) The committee would meet its financial requirements by seeking funding from sources, such as but not limited to:
 - i) United Nations' Annual budget,
 - ii) General Assembly budgets,
 - iii) World Bank,
 - iv) International Monetary Fund,
 - v) Individual countries would also be advised to make regular contributions to fund the committee in its actions;
- 2) **Requests** for the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) to adopt the following agenda in its meeting between 31 May- 9 June 2023 and work on creating a resolution to discuss solutions for the same, the agenda shall be:
- a) "Discussing the huge emissions that private companies have been and would be emitting from passenger-based Rocket launches and how they could pay compensation for the same", the word "compensation", shall include economic funding to an environmental organization or the company itself actively working on protecting the environment;
- 3) **Further recommends** the creation of a committee under the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for purposes such as:
- a) Monitoring and being actively involved in regulating the actions of private companies,
 - b) This committee would, just as the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space permits the secretary-general to receive registrations for satellites, receive registrations for all of the private satellites, rocket launches or any space mission and work on checking whether all the terms and conditions under which the rocket is launched aren't violating any of the existing space laws,
 - c) The committee would be exclusively formed by members from all member nations and shall be headed by a chair recommended by the United Nations,
 - d) The committee shall meet once a year to discuss and create any framework that is necessary to address any possible issue in terms of private companies and their actions in space;
- 4) **Takes note of** the fact that several countries don't have space agencies or any launch capabilities for satellites or rockets as a whole, and recommends all of these countries to come together and work together to pool resources, resources in terms of economic aid and scientific research, to catalyze their space development;
- 5) **Draws attention** to the following flaws in the five resolutions adopted on 6 November 2020, titled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space", "No first placement of weapons in outer

space”, “Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities” and “Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours” and recommends the following modifications to them:

- a) Addition of a clause to the five treaties mentioned above, defining “Outer Space” as “the space at a level higher than 100 km from the sea level on earth or shall extend from beyond the Kármán line”,
 - b) Draws emphasis to the second resolution mentioned above titled “No first placement of weapons in outer space” and in particular a provision mentioned in it in clause 3, which references the “Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT)”, the major flaws in this resolution would include:
 - i) The absence of mention of any space weapons such as direct ascent Anti-satellite weapons or soft-kill weapons like lasers that could permanently or temporarily disable a satellite,
 - ii) Lack of any sort of information regarding space debris and doesn’t legalize the use of threat or force against non-state parties,
 - iii) The current definition of outer space in these resolutions is ambiguous and should be changed back to the definition mentioned in older conventions, such as the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, that being,” The term “space object” includes parts of a space object as well as its launch vehicle and parts thereof”,
 - c) Further believes that an ad-hoc committee should be established to review and work on the shortcomings of the 5 resolutions mentioned above;
- 6) **Calls for** the creation of space police to actively enforce space law, It could be developed under the following conditions:
- a) Terms on which this body would work, how it would work, who would be a part of it and most importantly how would it be funded would be decided by nations in later meetings, such as in the upcoming meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
 - b) Recommends that the above-mentioned body be developed, at the latest, by 2030,
 - c) Countries would also have to work on establishing a framework upon which the space police would work;
- 7) **Calls upon** countries to discuss and establish the extent to which the spy technology in space could work and to what extent would the usage of such technology be considered acceptable at a specified date in a body such as the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
- 8) **Recognizes** the following loopholes in the following treaties, conventions and agreements as listed below:
- a) Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects:

- i) Doesn't mention how liable individual parties are if a complex satellite, such as one owned by multiple countries causes damage to another spacecraft of earth's surface,
 - ii) Recommends that the definition of the term "damage" is modified to include "space debris proliferated by Space Objects",
 - b) Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space:
 - i) Recommends that the agreement be amended to include passengers of rockets or those who aren't employed by the launching organization or country and requests that the provisions of the agreement extend to them too,
 - c) Outer Space Treaty (OST):
 - i) Article 2 of the Outer Space Treaty currently states, "Outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, using use or occupation, or by any other means" This should be amended to include non-governmental space agencies as well,
 - ii) Article 1 of the Outer Space Treaty currently states, "The exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind, Outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies, There shall be freedom of scientific investigation in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and States shall facilitate and encourage international cooperation in such investigation", the treaty should be amended to include the definition of the term "scientific investigation" that would be considered universally acceptable,
 - iii) Believes that there are a larger amount of areas on which the Outer Space Treaty would have to be modified, thus calling for the creation of an ad-hoc committee to discuss, review and amend the treaty to make it more relevant in the modern world;
- 9) **Suggests** the following amendments to the "Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies":
 - a) Article 6, point 2 of the agreement states that "In carrying out scientific investigations and in furtherance of the provisions of this Agreement, the States Parties shall have the right to collect on and remove from the Moon samples of its mineral and other substances, Such samples shall remain at the disposal of those States Parties which caused them to be collected and may be used by them for

scientific purposes, States Parties shall have regard to the desirability of making a portion of such samples available to other interested States Parties and the international scientific community for scientific investigation, States Parties may in the course of scientific investigations also use mineral and other substances of the Moon in quantities appropriate for the support of their missions”, the point should be amended to include the definition of the term ”samples” which would include what exactly are samples and what is the maximum amount of sample that could be taken from the moon,

- b) Article 6, point 1 of the agreement states,” There shall be freedom of scientific investigation on the Moon by all States Parties without discrimination of any kind, based on equality and in accordance with international law”, the point should be amended to include what the term “scientific investigation” would include and what form of it would be considered acceptable,
- c) Further suggests that all countries ratify this treaty after the above amendments are passed to ensure the just uses of the moon;

10) **Decides** to remain actively seized on this matter.