

Rotary Model UN 2023

United Nations



General Assembly 1 April 2023

Seventy-Seventh Session

Agenda item 20/176: Space Exploration and Disarmament

Sponsors:

Resolution #2

Prevention of an Arms Race in Space and Continued Peaceful and Sustainable Space Exploration

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Noting the Outer Space Treaty¹, established in 1967 by United Nations Resolution 2222², does not contain any provisions prohibiting placement of conventional or defensive weapons in orbit or on celestial bodies,

Reaffirming that practical measures should be examined and taken in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space and create accountability for future space exploration in a common effort towards international peace and security,

Recognizing the rapid and increasingly international development of Anti-Satellite (ASAT) weapons which increase the risk of global conflict and upon detonation, in some cases have, increased the number of objects in orbit by 20%,³

¹https://treaties.unoda.org/t/outer_space

² <http://www.un-documents.net/a21r2222.htm>

³ <https://hir.harvard.edu/anti-satellite-weapons-and-the-emerging-space-arms-race/>

Recognizing that ASAT tests have been conducted as recently as November 2021,⁴

Also Recognizing United Nations Resolution A/C.1/77/L.62, adopted on December 7, 2022, which created only a non-binding agreement to halt ASAT missile testing, was opposed by several nations with ASAT missile capabilities, and did not address nations who have already achieved ASAT missile technology⁵,

Acknowledging that there is nearly 6,000 tons of space debris in Low Earth Orbit endangering manned space flight and operational satellites,⁶

Noting the planned very large constellations of satellites with filings to the UN's ITC by China for 13,000⁷ satellites and by Elon Musk's SpaceX as many as another 30,000 satellites will exacerbate the issue of space debris,⁸

Recognizing the need to provide States with a mechanism to assist in the identification of objects launched into space.

Resources

1. Report of the Secretary-General on Reducing Space Threats Through Norms, Rules, and Principles of Responsible Behaviours (2021),
https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/outerspace-sg-report-outer-space-2021/?_gl=1*_hdsm6p*_ga*MzI2OTY5NTEuMTY2NDMxNDI2NA.*_ga_TK9BQL5X_7Z*_MTY2ODExNzk1Mi4xLjEuMTY2ODExODQ4My4wLjAuMA
2. “We Have Not Passed the Point of No Return”, Disarmament Committee Told, Weighing Chance Outer Space Could Become Next Battlefield, Seventy-Seventh Session, 22nd Meeting of the General Assembly First Committee,
<https://press.un.org/en/2022/gadis3698.doc.htm>
3. Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/publications/st_space_49E.pdf
4. NTI (Nuclear Threat Initiative) Proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Space Treaty, <https://www.nti.org/education-center/treaties-and-regimes/proposed-prevention-arms-race-space-paros-treaty/>
5. European Space Agency Environment Report 2022,
https://www.esa.int/Space_Safety/Space_Debris/ESA_s_Space_Environment_Report_2022

⁴ <https://www.space.com/russian-anti-satellite-missile-test-world-condemnation>

⁵ <https://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/77> ; Draft resolution A/C.1/77/L.62; Resolution A/77/383;
<https://spaceref.com/newspace-and-tech/united-nations-general-assembly-adopts-draft-resolution-regarding>

space-weapons/

⁶ https://www.nasa.gov/centers/hq/library/find/bibliographies/space_debris

⁷ <https://spacenews.com/china-establishes-company-to-build-satellite-broadband-megaconstellation/>

⁸ <https://spacenews.com/spacex-submits-paperwork-for-30000-more-starlink-satellites/>