

YUNMUN XXX

COPUOS

Topic 1: Space Technology for Sustainable Socioeconomic Development

Outer space is a treasure trove of resources and opportunities both discovered and mysterious to man. Countries have been increasingly turning to our solar system to find solutions to the present needs of mankind through the development of space. The UN even declared in June 2018 space science to be a ‘fundamental pillar’ of human development.<sup>1</sup> One of the vital goals of the United Nations<sup>2</sup> is to ensure that countries promote and hold by sustainable development practices so humans do not inadvertently deplete natural resources, thus compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This goal holds true as true in outer space as it does on Earth.

It has been established that there is much to be gained through observation of Earth from space, scientific experiments done in space, and usage of natural resources found in outer space.<sup>3</sup> Too often in history, quick scientific and economic gains have been made at an environmental or socioeconomic cost. As a committee we must ensure that innovation in outer space is encouraged, while legislating boundaries to follow. As in other areas of potential growth, private industry has become ever more curious about the possibilities of space. It is important that private industry and the public sector work together to create technologies that will facilitate sustainable growth. Partnerships between NGOs, research organizations, industry, and countries’ governments should be encouraged as per other areas of development, but they will be different when applied to the development of outer space.

As you write your topic papers, please keep in mind the following questions:

- What limits should our committee recommend to countries in their development of space? What limits has your country personally enacted?
- Does your country partner with private industry to build space technologies or space related solutions? Would you recommend this approach as a policy for other countries to follow?
- The development of space is costly and technologically demanding. How can we encourage the development of space by all countries, including developing countries?

Keep in mind that there are 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) already established by the UN.<sup>4</sup> Our job as a committee is not to debate which goals apply to space, but rather to discuss in

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/06/1012362>

<sup>2</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/benefits-of-space/sustainable-development.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

what ways they can all be applied to outer space. That being said, SDG 9 ad SDG 17 will be our focus, with others welcome in our conversation.

Please be sure to present your country's position and be familiar with the guidelines listed in the YUNMUN Student Handbook, especially those regarding plagiarism, as each paper will be checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.

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