

Perri Stermán

United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs: Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVI

Dear Delegates of UNOOSA,

Welcome to YUNMUN XXXVI! My name is Perri Stermán and I am so excited to be the chair of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs this year.

Here's a quick autobiography: I'm currently in my second year at Stern College majoring in Biology with a plan to become a physician's assistant. I grew up in New Rochelle, NY, and I went to Central (YUHSG) for high school before spending the most incredible year in Jerusalem at MMY. This will be my 5th year participating in YUNMUN (and also the 5th committee I've been a part of!). I love music; whether it's a good kumzitz or a jam sesh, and I hope that we can squeeze at least one in the conference!

Now onto the nitty gritty: UNOOSA was created on December 13, 1958 in response to the "Space Age." It was created to be an expert unit to support COPUOS (Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space) and still serves as its secretariat, working to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of space, as well as the use of science and technology for sustainable development.

This year, we in UNOOSA will be focusing on two pressing issues regarding outer space. First, we will be tackling the issue of the new Lunar Space Race, and how we can best promote international cooperation specifically within the lunar region. This international competition to "claim" the Moon and its resources has become an increasingly large threat to international peace within outer space, and raises concern regarding the legality of these missions. Furthermore, as wealthy countries, such as the United States and China, "duke it out," it is important to consider how the possible "conquering of the moon" will affect developing countries who lack the resources to participate in this race. UNOOSA must act decisively to

prevent conflict, ensure equitable access to lunar resources, and reinforce peaceful, cooperative space exploration under international law.

The second issue we will be focusing on is the use of Nuclear Power Sources in outer space. Countries are rapidly expanding their use of nuclear technology as they consider deep space missions, new satellites, and potentially establishing colonies on the Moon and Mars. This raises several concerns. First, the risk of accidents during launch or re-entry poses a serious environmental and health hazard both to Earth and space. Furthermore, there is a lack of real international regulation in this area, making it difficult to hold countries responsible. Finally, the risk of weaponization is already a concern in space, and allowing unregulated nuclear energy can quickly turn into weaponization, especially as tensions between large powers regarding control and exploration of space rise.

Your task is to research and understand your country's position on these key issues and work collaboratively with your fellow delegates to engage in meaningful discussions and resolutions. Please make sure to stick to your country's views, and to think creatively, but realistically. Please please please do not plagiarize!!! All papers will be checked for proper citations, originality and AI usage through Turnitin, so let's avoid that awkward conversation. Whether you are a new or returning delegate, please be sure to either read or brush up on your procedure. If you have any questions or just want to chat, my email is psterman@mail.yu.edu. I can't wait to have the most meaningful, fun, and just overall fantastic time with you all!! P.S. If you have made it this far, please send me an email with a secret talent that you can share at the conference. The best talent will most definitely receive extra points.

Sincerely,

Perri Serman

Chair, United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs

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