



PACE MUN 2025  
CONFLICTS TO CONSENSUS

# BACKGROUND GUIDE

COMMITTEE: The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

AGENDA: Strengthening International Mechanisms to Address the Militarization and Privatization of Outer Space for Sustainable Peace and Security.



## **LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS**

Dear delegates,

Welcome to UNOOSA, PACEMUN 2025, Your chairs for this session are Kartika Vaswani as your Head Chair and Nuja Theyjashri as your Co-Chair.

WELCOME to this session. We are pleased to have you here with us to participate in the most urgent challenges of all times: The evolving nature of outer space governance. The area which scientists once studied has transformed into a military domain and private sector space, which creates risks for global security and fair space access, and sustainable space operations.

This session delegates, will focus on handling and improving international systems to deal with these issues while keeping outer space dedicated to peaceful operations of humanity We look forward to all delegates speaking up regarding the conference, not being introverted during the conference and enjoying the conference to its fullest. Remember, winning isn't the only thing that matters, what matters is whether you had fun and will remember it for the rest of your life or not.

Delegates we have so many expectations from each and every one of you, we are sure that you guys will do your best in making this the best committee and best session to ever exist. Looking forward to many discussions and many more motion to challenges than that.

THANK YOU DELEGATES

REGARDS

YOUR HEAD CHAIR- Kartika Vaswani

YOUR CO CHAIR- Nuja Theyjashri

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## **INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE**

The United Nations General Assembly created the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) as a governing body for space exploration and utilization in 1959. The committee COPUOS must discuss international space cooperation for peaceful purposes while determining United Nations space activities and supporting space research programs and handling space exploration legal matters. The Committee has established five international treaties together with five sets of principles which regulate space activities to establish responsible space usage standards

It is a specialized UN body responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. It works to ensure that space activities benefit all humankind, particularly developing countries, by helping nations build capacity in space science, technology, and policy. UNOOSA also serves as the Secretariat for the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), overseeing the implementation of international space law especially the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and addressing issues like space debris, satellite regulation, and equitable access to orbital resources. In essence, UNOOSA ensures that outer space remains a realm of peace, safety, and shared progress rather than conflict or competition.



## **A DELVE INTO THE AGENDA:**

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 established space functions as a peaceful domain which prohibits any deployment of nuclear weapons or similar destructive weapons into space. The treaty was created during a distinct technological era which means its provisions may not suit modern challenges.

### **Militarization**

During the past few decades multiple countries have established military space capabilities through their development of anti-satellite missiles and space-based military satellite networks for reconnaissance purposes. The absence of enforceable space weapon agreements has created an open legal environment which could lead to a competitive buildup of space weaponry.

### **Privatization**

Commercial entities including SpaceX and Blue Origin have established themselves as players in the commercial space industry. The space industry expansion has generated technological progress but created three main problems because of space debris and ambiguous responsibility and unequal space access. Private mega-constellations have the potential to interfere with national security systems or create monopolies over orbital resources.

### **Current Situation**

Space serves two essential purposes in the present day because it functions as a vital infrastructure backbone through communications satellites and GPS systems and as a military domain subject to competition.

The Outer Space Treaty (OST) provides the only worldwide legal framework which directs space military operations and commercial activities.

The effort to establish a Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) agreement has encountered delays.





## **PAST ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE**

The Outer Space Treaty from 1967 serves as the fundamental legal framework which governs all space operations.

The Moon Agreement from 1979 attempts to control resource extraction but only a few countries have ratified it.

The UN General Assembly holds yearly discussions about space arms race prevention through its resolutions on PAROS.

The UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) maintains ongoing discussions about space governance through legal and technical means.

The Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (2019) received approval from COPUOS to establish responsible conduct standards for space operations.

UNIDIR and COPUOS Debates: COPUOS has conducted diplomatic debates on space security with a focus on transparency, confidence building measures, and responsible state behavior.



## **THINGS TO RESEARCH ABOUT**

1. The United States operates a national space program which supports military operations and commercial space exploration activities
2. The Moon Agreement along with the Outer Space Treaty stands as the primary international space treaties for which your country has completed the signing and ratification process
3. What is your country's position regarding PAROS and space arms control agreements?
4. How does your country manage private space activities through licensing systems and regulatory frameworks and partnership programs?
5. Space security faces its most dangerous threats through ASAT tests and space debris and satellites that serve dual purposes.
6. The existing international space governance system operates through multiple treaties yet these agreements do not provide enough defense against developing space security threats.
7. What regional or bilateral agreements (if any) does your country have on space security?



## **QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ADDRESS**

In what ways can the international community create binding regimes to prevent an arms race in outer space?

Which institutions can make state and private actors transparent and accountable?

How is innovation and commercial freedom to be balanced with the collective security in today's scenario?

The question remains about whether new treaties or modifications to existing agreements such as the OST should be established to handle present-day issues from this agenda.

The path toward sustainability requires specific methods to handle space debris and orbital congestion.

What is the role that UN bodies like COPUOS and UNIDIR in the compliance of monitoring and enforcement?



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# GOOD LUCK DELEGATE!

See you at the Conference!

