



WCDMUN 2024 Briefing Papers

SPECPOL





Topic 1: TQO Preventing the Deployment of Arms in Space by Private Companies

As we venture further into the vastness of outer space, an urgent concern arises; how to prevent private companies from deploying weapons in this uncharted frontier. The advent of advanced technologies and the growing involvement of private corporations in space endeavours have thrust into prominence the importance of preventing arms deployment in space.

Private companies, driven by profit motives and fuelled by technological innovation, have assumed prominent roles in the grand narrative of space exploration.

However, the issue of arms deployment in space poses a challenge to international security. In particular, the militarization of outer space could potentially amplify existing global geopolitical tensions, transcending the boundaries of Earth's conflicts. The lack of a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework for private space enterprises exacerbates these concerns, as existing arms control agreements predominantly pertain to nation-states, neglecting the intricate sphere of private corporations. This threat emphasizes the necessity for robust international cooperation to stave off the weaponization of space. Diplomatic efforts must be intensified to engage both state and non-state actors, creating a common understanding of the perils inherent in such actions.

The deployment of arms in space is not only a glaring threat to global security but also casts a long shadow over the preservation of space. Actions such as anti-satellite tests and kinetic weaponry generate orbital debris, a burgeoning detriment to the sustainability of outer space. This debris, often fragments of shattered satellites or remnants of weapon tests, poses an imminent threat to operational satellites and future space missions. Collisions in the crowded orbits above Earth can trigger a dangerous cascade effect, creating a treacherous and enduring challenge in the cosmos.

To prevent arms deployment in space, environmental stewardship emerges as a critical point and states and private entities must acknowledge their shared responsibility in maintaining the celestial environment. The promotion of debris mitigation practices, limiting the creation of space debris during weapons testing, as well as the development of strategies for cleaning up existing debris are just some of the measures that should be considered when solving this issue. International organizations specializing in space governance should lead efforts to establish a comprehensive framework for space environmental protection, outlining clear rules and guidelines for space debris management.

Preventing arms deployment in space necessitates the establishment of a robust legal framework and effective governance structures. The Outer Space Treaty, adopted in 1967, stands as a cornerstone of space law, emphasizing the peaceful use of outer space and the prevention of its weaponization. However, the dearth of addressment of the actions of private entities, leaving a significant gap in its coverage. This oversight highlights the need for contemporary adjustments to international space law. Efforts should be directed towards strengthening the Outer Space Treaty and other relevant agreements to include provisions that directly apply to private companies engaged in space activities.



Topic 2: TQO the Ongoing Partition of Cyprus

Cyprus, an island in the Eastern Mediterranean, has remained divided for nearly fifty years. The roots of this partition stretch back to the Turkish military intervention, triggered by a coup attempt aimed at uniting Cyprus with Greece. These events set the stage for the island's de facto separation into two distinct entities. In the south, the Republic of Cyprus is predominantly inhabited by Greek Cypriots, while the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, situated in the north, is home to Turkish Cypriots.

At the heart of the ongoing partition of Cyprus lies the suffering of the people caught in the crossfire of an unresolved conflict. Thousands of individuals were forcibly displaced from their homes during the events of 1974, leaving behind a legacy of shattered lives and the ongoing separation. Families remain divided by the so-called Green Line, a buffer zone controlled by the United Nations, and crossing it is an emotional and bureaucratic ordeal. Economic disparities between the two entities further exacerbate the division. The Republic of Cyprus, in the south, enjoys the benefits of European Union membership, providing access to a single market, development funds, and other advantages. In contrast, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognized only by Turkey, operates in relative isolation with limited international recognition. This economic imbalance deepens the divide and has far-reaching consequences, affecting the livelihoods and opportunities available to the people of both regions. Moreover, it underscores the critical role of economic factors in the broader dispute, as economic incentives could be a key driver in motivating parties to reach a comprehensive settlement.

The enduring separation of Cyprus also plays a critical role in the complex web of regional politics. The Cyprus issue also has implications for Turkey's relationship with the European Union. The presence of Turkish troops in Northern Cyprus remains a significant obstacle to Turkey's accession to the EU, contributing to the complex diplomatic relations between Turkey and the EU. Furthermore, Cyprus' natural gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean have become a new point of contention.

Resolving the longstanding division in Cyprus necessitates an approach that respects the island's unique historical and cultural heritage. A commitment to comprehensive and inclusive negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities is paramount to solving the issue at hand.



Topic 3: TQO the Kashmir Conflict

The Kashmir conflict, a contentious issue of geopolitical significance, has marred the Indian subcontinent for over seven decades. Nestled amidst breathtaking landscapes and characterized by intricate historical, political, and social intricacies, the dispute over Kashmir epitomizes the challenges of nationhood and identity, fostering a perpetual struggle for supremacy and self-determination.

The origins of the Kashmir conflict can be traced back to the turbulent period following the partition of British India in 1947, which led to the creation of India and Pakistan. Kashmir, a princely state, became the epicentre of territorial disputes. Its predominantly Muslim population and Hindu minority raised a question: should it accede to Hindu-majority India or Muslim-majority Pakistan? This religious dilemma ignited a chain of events, including the First Kashmir War, ultimately resulting in the establishment of the Line of Control (LoC) in 1949, a de facto border. The dispute, however, did not end with the LoC's establishment. It persisted and further grew over time. India and Pakistan both claimed Kashmir in its entirety, leading to further wars and skirmishes. The 1962 Sino-Indian War added another layer of complexity, with China asserting territorial claims in the region. The people of Kashmir, caught in this quagmire, have endured decades of conflict, insurgency, and human rights abuses. The diverse and multi-ethnic society of the region has witnessed deep-seated tensions, leading to communal violence and exodus, particularly in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

International mediation efforts, including those by the United Nations, have failed to produce a lasting resolution. These efforts have primarily centred on the principle of self-determination for the Kashmiri people, as outlined in various UN resolutions, but have been stopped by the unwillingness of India and Pakistan to engage in a constructive dialogue. In recent years, a significant turning point occurred in August 2019 when the Indian government revoked Article 370 of its constitution, which granted special autonomy to Kashmir. This move further escalated tensions, and the region experienced a lockdown and communication blackout of unprecedented scale. The Kashmiri people must also have a say in determining their future. The United Nations has passed resolutions recommending a referendum in the region to allow its residents to decide their own fate. Empowering the Kashmiri people to participate in such a process is vital for achieving a just and lasting solution, with a free and fair referendum.