

# HSANTRAIN'25 23-24-25 MAY 2025



# BOARD MEMBERS: Abdulkarim Doughan, Maryam el Saleh ACADEMIC ASSISTANT:

Haya el Houssami #balancethescales



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# Letter of the Secretary-General

#### Welcome to Ihsantrain 2025!

I'm beyond excited to finally say those words. Ihsantrain 2025 is here, and trust me, this is going to be so much more than your average MUN conference.

This year, we're building something special: a space where bold ideas matter, where voices rise (respectfully, of course), and where the energy in each committee room will remind you why you joined MUN in the first place. Whether you're here to debate global policy, challenge perspectives, or just nervously step into your first session ever you belong here.

MUN is where I found my confidence, my people, and a surprising amount of late-night work sessions. I hope Ihsantrain 2025 gives you the same energy. Let this be the weekend you surprise yourself, where you speak up even when you're unsure, and where you find not just fellow delegates but lifelong friends.

So bring your passion, your curiosity, and yes your best fits (we all know the MUN fashion obsession is real). This conference is yours to shape. On behalf of the entire team, I'm so glad you're here. Get ready to question, to grow, and to have an unforgettable time. And don't forget to balance the scales, bring your best arguments and your best vibes.

See you in committee! With excitement and a lot of admiration, Leen Almasri Secretary-General Ihsantrain 2025

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#### **Letter from the President Chairboard**

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome you to the IHSANTRAIN MUN 2025 conference and the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). We are delighted to have you join this unique and stimulating event, and we look forward to the engaging discussions that will follow.

As the Board members of this committee, we would like to extend our warmest greetings to all of you. Your participation signifies your dedication to understanding the complexities of international peace, security, and arms control. DISEC plays a crucial role in addressing global threats to peace, including the regulation of military activities and arms development, particularly in sensitive areas like outer space. Your engagement in discussions surrounding the prevention of the militarization of outer space will provide invaluable insights and challenges, especially as we tackle the agenda item: "Preventing the Militarization of Outer Space by Regulating Military Activities and Arms Development."

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As we embark on this thrilling experience, please keep in mind that it is not only a competition but also an opportunity for skill development, personal growth, and meaningful engagement with other delegates who are as passionate about international cooperation and global security as you are.

We strongly advise you to read your guide carefully, become familiar with the DISEC Committee's rules and procedures, and be ready to represent the perspectives of the nations you will represent to have a successful and productive conference experience.

If you have any questions or need any assistance leading up to or during the conference, we, alongside the Secretariat, are here to support you every step of the way. Please don't hesitate to reach out:

maryamelsaleh77@gmail.com doughanabed11@gmail.com. &

Wishing you all the best in your preparations. Get ready for an unforgettable experience. We can't wait to see you shine!

Best regards,

Maryam EL Saleh & Abdul Kerim Doughan

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### Introduction to Model United Nations

In committees, each delegate represents a country and must speak and act in line with its official policies. Delegates are not speaking for themselves, but as representatives of a nation; therefore, personal pronouns are not permitted during sessions. The committee's purpose is to identify peaceful, lawful, and collaborative solutions to global security issues. At the start of each session, the Chair will take a roll call, or attendance, in which each delegate will state "Present" or "Present and Voting." If a delegate says "Present," they may abstain from voting later on. If they answer "Present and Voting," they must vote for or against every resolution; abstentions are not possible.

When the chairboard opens the floor for any points or motions, a delegate is supposed to raise a motion that states: "Motion to set the agenda item to....." After that, the session starts with the General Speakers List

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(GSL). It is a list of countries that will be giving their speeches in the order they were added to the list. Each delegate will provide a short speech outlining their country's perspective on the issue, previous actions, and potential solutions.

Throughout the debate, delegates will present motions to transition to different types of discussion. The first is a moderated caucus, in which delegates speak individually about one part of the topic. Delegates, for example, may raise a motion discussing "military satellites" and so on. The sponsor of the motion chooses the total duration and speaking time for each delegate, and the Chair calls on speakers in order. An unmoderated caucus is different in the aspect that it is considered a free discussion session. Delegates are allowed to roam around the room, talk in groups, and begin collaborating to draft a resolution. This is when most negotiations and drafting take place.

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During the debate, delegates may use several points to communicate with the chairboard. A Point of Personal Privilege is used when a delegate is physically uncomfortable or cannot hear the speaker. A Point of Order is used when a delegate believes that the rules of procedure are not being followed and wants to correct the chair. A point of parliamentary inquiry is a question to the chair about the committee's rules or procedures. A point of information is any inquiry relevant to the current discussion (typically directed at the chairboard).

The committee's main aim is to write and pass a resolution, which is a formal document that outlines the committee's proposed solutions. A resolution is split into two sections: preambulatory clauses, which explain the context, issues, and previous acts; and operational clauses, which outline the suggested steps and proposals.

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# Introduction a. Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations has regular sessions with six committees, commonly referred to as "General Assembly" committees, to handle global and regional issues. One of them is the Disarmament and Security Committee, widely recognized as the first General Assembly. This committee, like others in the GA, has a considerable impact on international legislation. It develops arms control standards, combats the spread of nuclear weapons, regulates regional disputes, and advises the UN Security Council on how to maintain global security.

The Disarmament and International Security Council, shortened as DISEC, is the United Nations General Assembly's very first body, formed in 1945 with the adoption of the United Nations Charter. Its priorities include disarmament, tackling global concerns, and combating challenges that threaten worldwide stability. The committee works to provide answers to global security concerns in adherence with the standards set

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in the Charter. DISEC works closely with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, both situated in Geneva. It also serves as an organization under UNODA, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. Its duties involve controlling weaponry, resolving territorial disputes, averting an arms race in space, and promoting international peace through disarmament. Operating within the boundaries of the United Nations Charter, DISEC requires active engagement from delegates, who must exhibit extensive knowledge of solving conflicts, diplomatic elegance, and a strong devotion to established values.

Although DISEC falls short of the authority to execute its recommendations, it serves an important advising and policy-making role within the UN framework. The committee can develop and propose resolutions on armament, cyber warfare, and other topics. It encourages international communication to prevent armed conflict and de-escalate tensions, as well as addressing global security concerns.

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# b. Introduction to the agenda: PREVENTING THE MILITIRIZATION OF OUTER SPACE BY REGULATING MILITARY ACTIVITY AND ARMS DEVELOPMENT

In the past few decades, space has evolved from a domain of exploration and discovery into one of strategic and military importance. The increasing reliance of states on space assets for military operations, communications, surveillance, and navigation has raised concerns over the potential weaponization of space. As nations develop technologies capable of disabling or destroying spacebased infrastructure, the risk of conflict extending beyond Earth becomes increasingly tangible.

Preventing the militarization of space is crucial to maintaining international peace and security. This agenda seeks to address the legal and political gaps in current space governance frameworks and to explore practical measures that can curb military activities in outer space. By regulating such activities, the international community can work toward ensuring

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that space remains a global commons dedicated to peaceful uses.

As space continues to be integral to national security strategies, the need to prevent an arms race in this domain becomes increasingly urgent. This discussion will focus on creating transparent, cooperative, and enforceable mechanisms that discourage aggressive behavior and encourage responsible conduct in space. The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) must therefore consider both historical precedents and modern technological realities in its effort to ensure that outer space remains a zone of peace.

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## **Historical Context**

The end of World War II in 1945 was a key turning point in shaping the modern world. As the Allies emerged victorious, two superpowers emerged from the chaos of the war: The United States of America (USA) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The two global powers, driven by competition over technological developments, economic supremacy, and a clash of ideologies, steered the world into a conflict that lasted almost 50 long and tense years.

By the mid-1950s, after the USSR developed its first nuclear weapon, the two countries entered an arms race fueled by the aim to stockpile atomic weapons.

Year after year, the two countries furthered their advances by developing hydrogen bombs, launching nuclear submarines, and fostering alliances. However, the atomic weapons proved to be a deterrent to a headon conflict. The opposing governments both acknowledged that a direct attack on the other would

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result in a worldwide nuclear conflict, eradicating the human race. The two giants found themselves in a Mexican standoff here on Earth, so they raised their hopes of supremacy to outer space. The world now entered the Space Race, an era of astounding achievements in outer space, yet stained by the Cold War, an era of terrorizing unrest on Earth.

This period marked the beginning of outer space becoming a domain not only of scientific exploration but also of strategic military interest. Though initial uses of space technologies were civilian, such as launching satellites for communication or Earth observation, the same technologies quickly found military applications. Satellites were used for reconnaissance, navigation, and missile targeting — all key components in modern warfare. Both superpowers also began testing anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons, heightening fears of a future conflict in orbit.

In response to growing concerns, the global community sought to establish legal norms to

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preserve space as a peaceful domain. The most notable achievement came in 1967 with the Outer Space Treaty, which prohibited the placement of nuclear weapons in orbit and banned military installations on celestial bodies. However, the treaty fell short of banning all military activities in space and did not foresee the rise of non-nuclear threats, such as ASAT weapons, cyber operations, and dual-use satellite systems.

In recent decades, rising tensions between spacefaring nations, technological advancements, and the entrance of new state and non-state actors have reignited fears of an arms race in space. The ambiguity surrounding what constitutes a "weapon" in space and the lack of comprehensive enforcement mechanisms in current treaties leave room for militarization under the guise of peaceful or defensive capabilities. If left unchecked, this trend could lead to weaponized satellites, space-based missile defense systems, or even kinetic strikes from orbit — all of which pose catastrophic risks to global security and the future of space exploration.

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#### Timeline of Space Militarization & Key Events



End of Ward WC2:11945 USA & USSR emerges sca superpawors, bimaring Cod var

#### USSR develops its first nuclear weapon

Gegins nuclear ants rac with USA

#### Arms Race intentissis

Both powers develop. hy.drogen bombs, nuclear submarines, and military alliances

#### USSR launches Sputnik 1

First artificial satellite, Marcks the start of the Space Race

#### Partial Test Ban Treaty

Prohibits nuclear tests in space, atmosphere, and underwater

#### **Outer Space Treaty signed**

Prohibits the placement of WMDs in orbit. & military-bases on celestial bodles. Estabilishing space as a peaceful domain

#### 1970c-1980s ASAT

USA develop and test anti-satilite weapons. Space becritical to military strategy

#### Present & Ongoing

Ambiguous definitions of weapons in space-lack of enforcement Increased risk of space weaponization through-satelllites, missile defense systems

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# Current Situation a. Risk of Space Weaponization

As countries create and implement technologies for both military and civilian uses, the militarization of space has emerged as a major issue. Although the 1967 Outer Space Treaty forbids the emplacement of WMDs in orbit or on celestial bodies, it does not fully regulate other kinds of weaponry or military operations.

One major issue is still the development and testing of anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons. Countries like the US, China, Russia, and India having the capability of destroying satellites raises the likelihood of escalation and additional space debris. In an ASAT test in 2007, China used a missile to destroy its nowdefunct meteorological satellite, Fengyun-1C. Over 3,000 trackable debris fragments were produced by the explosion; many of which are still in orbit and are highly likely to endanger functional satellites. Many countries condemned this test, which was a watershed in the weaponization of space.

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Likewise, India's Mission Shakti in 2019 destroyed a satellite in low Earth orbit, raising concerns even though it was expected that the debris would burn up upon reentry. These events underscore the growing risk of geopolitical rivalries extending into space, highlighting the absence of binding treaties to regulate such activities.

The growing militarization of this area is reflected in the creation of military units devoted to space operations. Satellites offer strategic benefits in communication, surveillance, and navigation, consequently, nations must consider space to be essential to their national security. In 2019, with the creation of the U.S. Space Force, space was officially recognized as a warfighting domain. Protecting American satellites and maintaining space dominance was the main part of its mandate. Across the globe, China's Strategic Support Force was created in 2015 and reflects its all-encompassing approach to modern warfare by combining space, cyber, and electronic warfare capabilities. Similarly, back on the old continent, protecting French space assets is the

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goal of France's Space Command, established also in 2019. The establishment of these military divisions raises concerns about rising tensions and the possibility of conflict, which shows how countries are setting themselves up to compete in space.

It is challenging to discern between peaceful and militarized activities since many space technologies, such as navigation systems and observation satellites, have both military and civilian uses. Completed in 2020, China's Beidou Navigation Satellite System offers vital positional information for military uses like missile guidance as well as civilian uses like navigation and disaster relief. Comparably, Russia's GLONASS system, which facilitates tasks like troop movements and precision targeting, is essential to its defense policy. These technologies draw attention to the hazy boundaries between military and civilian applications, making it deceptive to regulate space operations and maintain transparency.

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While the use of WMDs in space is outlawed, the use of conventional weapons and other military actions are not specifically prohibited. Concerns about a space weapons race have increased as a result of this vulnerability. Since the 1980s, the United Nations has debated the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) project. The United States has opposed it, claiming that current treaties like the Outer Space Treaty are adequate, while nations like China and Russia favor legally enforceable steps to avoid weaponization. Negotiations have stopped because of this split, making space open to militarization. The inability to reach a legally binding agreement under PAROS emphasizes how urgently these issues require fresh international discussion. Future space-based warfare is also possible, as evidenced by the development of directed-energy weapons and kinetic kill vehicles.

In summary, space militarization is no longer merely a problem for the future. The development of dual-use technologies, the establishment of military space forces, and ASAT testing are examples that highlight the

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increasing outlook of space as an arena of war. If strong international agreements do not address these problems, space, serving as the beacon of human exploration, cooperation, and advancement, will cease to exist.

## b. Challenges Aggravating the Issue

Several factors are exacerbating the risks of space weaponization, making it an increasingly urgent global security concern. Chief among these challenges is the lack of comprehensive legal frameworks and verification mechanisms. While the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and other agreements like the Moon Agreement of 1979 exist, they are outdated and do not adequately address modern technologies or the nuances of contemporary geopolitical tensions. The absence of enforceable rules leaves significant gaps in oversight, enabling states to pursue military capabilities in space with little accountability.

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Another aggravating factor is the rapid advancement of technology. Emerging technologies such as co-orbital ASAT systems, directed-energy weapons, and cyber capabilities can disable or interfere with satellites without creating visible debris, complicating attribution and escalating risks of misinterpretation or conflict. These advancements are developing faster than the international community can regulate, creating a dangerous lag between capability and governance.

Geopolitical competition further intensifies the issue. Space dominance is increasingly viewed as essential for national power projection, intelligence gathering, and economic competitiveness. Rivalries among major powers, notably the United States, China, and Russia, drive an arms race dynamic, where each state's military advancements provoke countermeasures by others, creating a security dilemma. Smaller states are also becoming space actors, sometimes aligning with larger powers, which adds layers of complexity to potential conflict scenarios.

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Commercialization of space presents another challenge. Private companies are launching vast constellations of satellites for communication and observation purposes. While these endeavors drive innovation and economic growth, they also complicate space traffic management and blur the lines between civilian and military assets. The dual-use nature of many commercial technologies means they can be repurposed for military applications, further muddying the regulatory waters.

Lastly, space debris itself represents a growing challenge. ASAT tests and accidental collisions contribute to an increasingly crowded orbital environment, raising the likelihood of cascading collisions, known as the Kessler Syndrome. This could render certain orbits unusable, impacting global communication, navigation, and even national security capabilities.

In combination, these challenges create a volatile and ambiguous security environment in space,

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necessitating urgent multilateral efforts to establish clearer norms, transparency measures, and binding agreements.

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# **Previous Demilitirization Efforts**

Efforts to prevent the weaponization of space have a long history, beginning with the landmark Outer Space Treaty of 1967. This treaty, signed by over 110 countries, established space as a global commons dedicated to peaceful purposes, prohibiting the placement of nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies. However, it fell short of addressing conventional weapons or military activities such as ASAT tests.

Subsequent agreements, like the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, sought to indirectly limit the militarization of space.

- Objective: The treaty aimed to limit the development and deployment of missile defense systems, thereby reducing incentives to militarize space.

Impact: It helped ease tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War by

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curbing space-based missile defenses. However, its significance diminished when the United States formally withdrew in 2002, citing strategic concerns, which reignited fears of space becoming a new arena for military competition.

At the United Nations, various resolutions and initiatives have attempted to address the issue. A notable example is UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/55/32 (2000), which promoted the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS).

• Impact: Although these resolutions help maintain international dialogue and emphasize the global community's concerns about space weaponization, they are non-binding and lack enforcement mechanisms. This limits their practical effectiveness in curbing militarization.

Further attempts at formal agreements include the Moon Agreement of 1979, which extended peaceful use principles to celestial bodies but was ratified by very

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few countries, rendering it largely symbolic.

China and Russia have also repeatedly submitted draft treaties, notably the Proposed Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (PPWT) in 2008 and 2014. These drafts aimed to ban the placement of weapons in outer space and prevent the use of force against space objects.

However, the proposals faced criticism, especially from the United States and its allies, for lacking robust verification measures and failing to address groundbased ASAT capabilities.

In addition, voluntary transparency and confidencebuilding measures (TCBMs) have been promoted as softer approaches. The European Union's International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities (ICoC), introduced in 2008, aimed to establish behavioral norms for responsible space operations. Nevertheless, it struggled to achieve universal adoption, particularly from emerging space powers who viewed it as favoring established actors.

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Despite these various initiatives, the absence of a comprehensive and legally binding international treaty specifically prohibiting the weaponization of space persists. The growing strategic importance of outer space, coupled with rapid technological advancements, highlights the urgency of renewed diplomatic engagement and more effective regulatory frameworks.

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### **Relevant Parties**

#### China:

Through the China National Space Administration (CNSA) established in 1993, China has rapidly proven itself to be a space juggernaut. Major achievements include the Tiangong space station, the Chang'e lunar exploration program, and the Tianwen-1 mission, which successfully deployed a rover on Mars in 2021. However, it often operates independently due to tense relations with the US. On the political spectrum, Chinese representatives play a pivotal role in fostering international partnerships. China intends to push for legally binding instruments to prevent an arms race in outer space while criticizing other countries for refusing to negotiate such terms, spearheading along with China the disapproval of the Artemis Accords. However, China has also faced criticism over its role in the alarming growth of space debris around Earth's orbit. In 2023 alone, China eclipsed its previous record of 186 with an outstanding 222 launch attempts. To make matters

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worse, the explosion of a Chinese rocket stage, spread thousands of debris fragments across Earth's low orbit.

#### India:

Led by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), India's space program focuses on cost-effective innovation and accessible technology. With its significantly lower budget relative to their counterparts, the ISRO has achieved impressive milestones, including the Chandrayaan Lunar Mission, the Mangalyaan Mars Orbiter Mission, and the Gaganyaan human spaceflight project. It has emerged as a competitive player in commercial space launches and international collaborations with France, the United States, and the UAE. Giving preference to similarly lower budgeted space programs such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Rwanda's space programs. Following India's increasing partnership with the United States (namely through the Artemis Accords), the growing tension between India and China raises further security concerns. Reflecting their geopolitical rivalry, which spans disputed borders, the Indian Ocean, and technological competition, the

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growing tensions between India and China raises further security concerns. Reflecting their geopolitical rivalry, which spans disputed borders, the Indian Ocean, and technological competition, the growing tension between India and China is a main source of worry over the militarization and weaponization of space.

#### **United States:**

Spearheaded by NASA, the United States space program is a global leader in space exploration and innovation. In the background of its infamous space race with Russia, the United States has achieved historic milestones, such as the Apollo Moon landings and Project Gemini. The US still pioneers space exploration through the Mars Rover Mission, the James Webb Space Telescope, collaboration with the private sector, and the Artemis Program. In a daring effort to get back to the moon and an even bigger ambition of reaching Mars, the US has begun its project with the Artemis Accords. With almost a quarter of Earth's nations signing on to the non-legally binding accords, the United States believes that with the terms

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presented, it will "not only take our astronauts to space, but we launch our values of peace respect for the rule of law, of open science, of sustainable activities". The unprecedented scale of international collaboration via the Artemis Accords isn't free of criticism, primarily from China and Russia.

#### Russia:

Managed by Roscosmos, Russia's space program traces back to the Soviet era, marked by iconic achievements such as launching Sputnik (the first artificial satellite) and sending the first human, Yuri Gagarin, to space in 1961. In recent decades, Russia has played a crucial role in maintaining the International Space Station (ISS), and it remains a key player in global space governance and exploration. However, challenges such as funding limitations and shifting geopolitical dynamics have affected its prominence on the global stage. Even though Russian representatives in the UN have expressed "aims to ensure continuous consideration of all aspects of preventing an arms race, doing so inclusively, comprehensively and in line with established practice", and with the date of deorbiting of

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the ISS approaching, it isn't likely that Roscosmos will continue collaboration with NASA. Russia has expressed its intention to develop its replacement for the ISS; including strengthening ties with the Chinese space program by signing an agreement to build a lunar base (the ILRS) at the lunar south pole, backed by countries such as Egypt, Pakistan, and South Africa; as well as refusing to join the US-led Artemis accords with the former head of Roscosmos claiming the Artemis Accords were "illegal" and not in compliance with international law.

The European Space Agency:

The European Space Agency (ESA), founded in 1975, unites 22 member countries to lead Europe's space efforts. Members, including France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, and Luxembourg, have all shown unprecedented collaboration while still achieving great missions through their space programs. The ESA focuses on scientific exploration, environmental monitoring, and satellite technology, and has crossed milestones in missions that include the Rosetta mission and the Ariane launch vehicles. ESA

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works closely with NASA, JAXA, and other agencies to promote international cooperation and sustainable space development. Notably, in developing national guidelines to reduce debris during launch and on-orbit operations, collaborating with NASA on the Artemis Program, as well as raising awareness through workshops to address, analyze, and improve international space collaboration, sustainability, and technology.

#### The Private Sector:

As the space domain grows more accessible via new technologies and less costly access to Earth's orbit, small and developing countries and private actors are transforming this ecosystem. Private companies such as SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Rocket Lab have transformed the space industry by lowering costs and increasing accessibility. Leading the way with reusable rockets and commercial space missions, including crewed flights to the International Space Station (ISS) and concentrating on space tourism and lunar exploration through collaboration with the public sector, private companies have made crucial

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technological advances and have expanded human presence in space through innovation and commercialization. The private sector, however, has also had its fair share of criticisms. Questions about its purpose, goals, and sustainability were raised. The most pressing, however, is the environmental toll on the planet with the rapid increase of space debris caused by the thousands of satellites launched yearly. Private actors are called to protect the environment, create a sustainable long-term process for space exploration, and maintain international relations.

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# **Questions to be Addressed**

- How can the existing treaties be updated to address modern challenges like private sector activities, resource mining, and orbital overcrowding?
- Should there be an international body to oversee space activities? If so, what responsibilities and powers would it have?
- What measures can be introduced to prevent an arms race in space?
- How can transparency and confidence-building measures between nations reduce the risks associated with military uses of space?
- What steps can be taken to ensure that developing nations have access to space technologies and resources?
- How can international organizations support capacity-building in space exploration for countries with limited resources?
- What global strategies can be implemented to manage space debris and ensure the sustainability of space activities?

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![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_1.jpeg)

 How can collaboration between governments and private companies be regulated to promote innovation while maintaining accountability and fairness?

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