



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



4th SPD: Colonization of Space

Hello, my name is Yasi Fahimi, and I am going to be your head-chair for 4th SPD at the MVHS MUN conference. I am currently a sophomore, and this will be my second year as a part of the Model United Nations program. Here at Mission, I take part in tennis and soccer, for which I also play club on the Pateadores. When I'm not playing sports, I am usually in my hammock or watching movies with my friends. I cannot wait to be the head-chair for this committee and look forward to having a terrific debate!

I. Background

As humans have made tremendous advancements in science and technology, the once fictional idea of colonization beyond Earth has become a realistic possibility. Described as the settlement of human civilization outside of Earth, the colonization of space is favorable because of its potential to fuel the survival of man in the case of a catastrophe as well as its ability to expand upon our resources. However, space exploration comes with a hefty price tag which many countries oppose spending on and would rather use the funding to help resolve more pressing issues here on Earth. Nonetheless, our planet's resources may eventually become exhausted, but by building habitats in space we can ensure the salvation of our future. These habitats proposedly will consist of a society in which 10,000 people can hold careers, raise families, and live just as they would in a typical human life. Colonization began with man's first trips to Mars and has grown relentlessly, now even including mining in the Belt. Furthermore, while the topic of space colonization has been considered and theorized, it is becoming a growing interest as we step towards the future.

II. UN Involvement

The U.N. has been involved in the topic of space colonization since the 1950s and has a dedicated branch called The U.N. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), through which they have effectively declare treaties and other agreements regarding exploration. While the U.N.'s framework is not yet thoroughly established in regards to its guidelines and action plans, the organization has created a basis for such a broad charter. Some of their proclamations include the "Outer Space Treaty", which asserts principles to govern the activities of different nations in outer space, as well as the "Rescue Agreement", which is an arrangement on the rescue of astronauts and the retrieval of objects sent into space. Basic compromises such as these are agreed upon to prevent conflicts as we approach the future. One of their main understandings is that the exploration and use of outer space must be in the best interest of all countries, benefiting the masses. In addition, all states reserve equal privilege to explore this vast frontier and conduct research for the good of the world. Although the United Nation's involvement in space colonization has been more constrained than its work in other branches, their current approach has outlined a positive use for outer space in the future.



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III. Possible Solutions

Many countries have already been looking into sending their peoples to space. Some countries, however, refuse to fret about the overwhelming cost the trips would be. There are quite a few countries as well, that are either not advanced enough scientifically, or financially. There is also the topic of creating borders and resources out in this new world. The UN created the Outer Space Treaty, emphasizing key points such as, celestial bodies are for peaceful purposes, and shall not be harmed or contaminated greatly by humans; outer space is free for all to explore; and that outer space shall be used for the benefit and interests of all countries; to an extent. In addition, it should be affirmed that all countries will have an equal opportunity to explore outer space, if they wish to. Financially, it should all be paid internationally, excluding those who do not wish to participate. That way, smaller countries wishing to explore are able to.

IV. Country Bloc Positions

African: African nations are not directly nor concerned with space colonization as they struggle financially and have more pressing issues at hand.

Asia/Pacific: Developed Asian nations, including Japan and China, are technologically advanced and show the same level of interest in outer space as many western countries. They provide funding for programs and support organizations considering colonization.

Western: Western countries lead the way in space exploration and, due to their economic security, fund great projects involving colonization and research.

Latin: While the majority of Latin nations are still unstable economically and politically, they do not dedicate the same support towards space colonization as Westerners and Asia. However, some countries like Peru have developing space programs.

V. Questions to Consider

1. How advanced is your country's space program, and are you able to advance any further at this given moment?
2. What is your country's position on the Colonization of Space?
3. How much is your country influenced by others on the Colonization of Space?
4. Is your country able to pay for the expenses Colonization will most likely bring?
5. Other than resources and land, what does your country hope to gain out of this?

VI. Works Cited

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/reviews/review-essay/2000-03-01/paving-road-hell-failure-un-peacekeeping> <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/reform.shtml>



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<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/security.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/newhorizon.shtml>

