

Fair Lawn Model United

Nations Conference V

2016

The United Nations logo, featuring a world map surrounded by olive branches, is centered in the background. Overlaid on this logo is the text for the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

**United Nations
Office for Outer
Space Affairs**

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Letter from Your Chairs

Greetings Delegates.

Welcome to FAIRMUNC 2016. My name is Kai Nissimov and I will be chairing for the committee of UNOOSA. I'm currently a junior at Fair Lawn High School, and I have been deeply involved and interested with Model UN since last year. I have attended many conferences from which I have learned the skills of debating, worked together with other delegates, learned numerous facets of Model UN, all the while making friends. My experience at FAIRMUNC as a delegate last year was a huge success, and I wish the same for all of you. This will be my first time chairing, but I hope you will be patient with me. I look forward to a productive, challenging, and fun debate, and trust me, we will have a lot of fun.

Greetings delegates, new and old, and welcome to FAIRMUNC. My name is Tim Kuzmenkov and I, also, am a junior at Fair Lawn High school. I joined Model UN as a freshman, and I am proud to say that it has been one of the best and most rewarding experiences of my school career. The conferences I have attended have taught me many skills, including public speaking and other skills specifically pertaining to research. I am ecstatic to have the opportunity to be your co-chair and to witness your development during the debate. I hope you are as excited as I am for the great experience that is the Model UN experience.

This guide is meant to provide a substantial amount of background knowledge about your chairs and this conference. Please come fully prepared with extra research and your position papers. The topics for the FAIRMUNC 2016 UNOOSA Committee are the humanitarian crisis on the moon and extraterrestrial communication. Both are highly debated topics about the future and humans, and we cannot wait to see what you can bring to the discussion and which resolutions will be made.

See you on the floor,

Kai and Tim

TOPIC 1: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ON THE MOON

Introduction:

By 2052, the combined effects of mass resource shortages and the environmental havoc created by climate change have led to coastal flooding and extensive droughts. More than 2 billion people have been displaced. As Earth grew unable to support the human population, corporations looked to the stars for new places to develop and profit from. The early colonies were only meant for the rich since space travel was expensive. However, as technology progressed, the influx of people to the colonies did as well. Companies seeking quick and easy profit set up poorly constructed colonies, in hopes of taking advantage of the crisis on Earth. But the situation only continued to deteriorate back on our home planet, and huge swaths of people rushed at any opportunity to leave the planet. The moon however, was unable to support the population, as it quickly swelled past one million. The push of humans to the moon has put a massive pressure on the lacking lunar resources. Lunar refugee camps suffer from a lack of food, as the current infrastructure cannot support the swelling populations of the

refugees. Furthermore, due to the short construction periods and poor regulation, accidents have become increasingly more common. Finally, the issue of accountability for accidents on the moon has become a topic of great debate.

History of the Crisis:

Humanity has long dreamed of going to the moon. Originally, the combined efforts of NASA and the European Space Agency created the first functioning lunar base in the mid 2020s. This base originally supported a small population of scientists and engineers that worked together to develop new technologies and techniques to turn the old cramped buildings into spacious comfortable living quarters for researchers and rich tourists alike. By the late 2020s, several private corporations, including SpaceX and Reaction Engines LTD, started delivering supplies, equipment, and people to the small lunar colonies. By this time, climate change has reached a point at which it could not be reversed, as the planet continued becoming warmer and warmer. As flooding

and strong storms became more and more regular, people opted to move from the coast and flooding prone areas. However this was not enough, as the stronger and stronger hurricanes, monsoons, and other storms constantly displaced millions of people annually, causing massive reconstruction efforts. By the mid 2040s, however, space travel became cheap enough to allow a very large portion of the population to be able to travel and live on the moon. At this time, many space companies rose up to try and take advantage of this swell in interest. This caused many poorly constructed habitats to be created, resulting in many accidents and fatalities, along with colonies being built that were insufficiently supplied to support the large populations. Although many colonists attempted to return home to Earth, many “junk” companies were shut down due to bankruptcy, leaving many colonists stranded. Several governments stepped in to try and rescue them, unfortunately the process was slow and it could take years to empty a colony. By the early 2050s, the situation has completely spiraled out of control with over a million people living on the moon in habitats that lack the necessary resources to fully supply them.

Purpose: A meeting of the UNOOSA is called to determine the fate of these colonies and what should be done to protect their populations.

Plans Currently in Place

Several Private organizations, including the Red Cross, have attempted to alleviate the stress upon the lacking infrastructure on the lunar colonies by donating funds, equipment, and personnel. However, the efforts of these organizations are not enough, as the population continues to swell. As such, global action is required to assist the population on the Moon. Currently, most nations are reluctant to help, as they are suffering from their own issues on Earth.

Country Positions:

USA

The United States of America has long been a proponent of privatization of space, with many of the larger Space exploration Giants originating in it, including SpaceX and Blue Origin. Along with this, the United States of America has consistently supplied many foreign governments with aid through various charities and federal programs. To protect its citizens, the US pushes for greater assistance to the lunar colonists.

This would be done through the granting of funds through federal foreign aid programs. Furthermore, the US pushes for the expansion of regulation by the respective governments of the corporations, without the oversight of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. Finally, the United States of America has been reluctant to jail anyone responsible for the failed colonies.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom, made up of England and Wales, has long been a host to various private space corporations, including Virgin Galactic, and as such, supported the development of the lunar colonies from the start. However, as the situation continued to deteriorate, the United Kingdom government has begun shifting foreign aid funding to focus on the issues continuing to ravage the lunar populations. However, the leadership of the country understands that more needs to be done, as the country is not willing to relinquish enough funds to make a meaningful difference.

Japan

Japan has possessed a national space program for nearly fifty years. This nation however, has few private space corporations,

as the government heavily regulates this industry, making it difficult to enter this field. Regardless of their small size, such heavy regulations make the Japanese lunar colonies among the safest and most comfortable ones available. The nation opposes sending aid to any corporations, as foreign corporations should be supported by their own governments. The lunar colonies of this nation stand as an example for others to follow.

Israel

Israel, albeit a small nation, has long strived to develop a space program. In conjunction with NASA, the Israel Space Agency developed technologies used by all lunar colonies. The nation has only produced one private space company, SpaceIL, which can be attributed to a lack of interest, which had set up a small lunar outpost. The government regulates SpaceIL slightly, and it believes that the governments of the countries in which the corporations reside should assist and regulate them.

France

France has a long-standing space program, with it originating during the early years of the space race between the Soviet Union and the United States. France possesses

several relatively small private space corporations that have reached the moon, and as such, few French companies have founded lunar colonies. Coupled with strict regulations, the nation's lunar colonies are mostly run by the government for research purposes, similar to Japan. The nation supports diverting some financial resources to the support of the colonies founded by other companies and countries, as the government believes it is necessary to protect the lives and hopes of humanity, along with it being an integral part of future space development.

Russia

The Russian Federation, and its predecessor, the Soviet Union, has always been a part of extraterrestrial exploration and development. As such, the nation has a massive interest in all expansion and development in space. The nation also boasts a large amount of private aerospace companies, and as such, defends their right to development on the Moon. However, the country believes that regulating these organizations is pointless, as it obstructs development, and as it is difficult to enforce these regulations. The government also refuses to send aid to foreign companies, instead opting to give

grants to Russian space development organizations.

China

China developed its space program early in the Space Race, and as such it possesses a great number of scientific achievements. The private corporation scene within China is developing, however it is still lacking behind the corporations of other countries. The nation's space program, however, leads the national effort in developing lunar colonies. The government mostly uses these colonies for scientific research and as such, the colonies are decently constructed. The nation refuses to support the other colonies, as it believes that it is the responsibility of their respective governments to assist them. Furthermore, China is calling for the complete shutdown of any colonies not meeting certain requirements, and for the arrest of their developers, as many human lives are at stake.

India

Albeit young, the Indian national space program has completed several lunar bases in a very short amount of time. Indian space companies have also developed their own lunar bases. The Indian government, however, has been criticized for taking bribes from these companies to

look over any deficiencies in the construction of their lunar colonies. The Indian government has little oversight on these lunar projects, and as such accidents are common amongst the cheaper colonies. The nation is a great ally of many countries in extraterrestrial development, and as such welcomes the idea of assistance by an international coalition to relieve the lunar bases of stress caused by the spiraling populations.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has been falsely accused by other nations of being very weak, with what they claim to be, lies being propagated of them often relying upon foreign aid to sustain their own population. The government of this nation, led by the aging Kim Jong Un, believes that the people of other inferior nations do not need their support as they are puppets for their imperialist governments that sought to destroy the prosperity and harmony within the safe borders of the country. The nation has set up its own space station, however other nations accuse the DPRK of simply using the old, decrepit remains of the International Space Station.

Cuba

The small island nation of Cuba, although lacking the massive resources of larger and richer nations such as the United Kingdom and the United States of America, has developed its own space program in cooperation with its greatest ally, the Russian Federation. Cuba vehemently opposes the privatization of Space, calling the lunar colonies, "total failures". Furthermore, the nation opposes any relief funds being sent to the colonies, as they are rich private corporations that should be able to recover on their own and, as non-governmental entities, they do not qualify for foreign aid.

Feel free to expand on these countries positions, however keep in mind their basic beliefs.

Questions to consider:

1. How has your country responded to the crisis?
2. How should the UN Organization for Outer Space Affairs act in order to save the people suffering on the moon?
3. What can your country propose as solutions?

TOPIC 2: EXTRATERRESTRIAL COMMUNICATION

Introduction:

As technology progressed during the twenty first century, humanity developed ways of communicating faster than light. By sending radio waves through a wormhole, communication was made nearly instantaneous. By utilizing this technology the exploration of space became significantly easier as probes no longer had a time delay. Furthermore, since radio waves were able to travel faster and farther, the human race was able to communicate with its colonies from extreme distances in a matter of seconds. During the 2070s, however, interference was detected amongst the various transmissions. After extensive research into these interferences, the governments of the world concluded that it is extraterrestrial life. Massive teams of supercomputers and scientist, who confirmed it to be a message of greeting, translated the messages. News of extraterrestrials spread worldwide as people shocked, curious, and afraid are eager to meet these life forms. After perfecting the communication systems, the governments of Earth now had the

ability to respond to the greeting. However, several countries petitioned to put control over the response's contents into the hands of the UN.

History:

It is a popular theory throughout the history of humanity that we should meet beings of a different world. Since the development of radio waves, humans have searched the cosmos looking for any signs of extraterrestrial communication. Billions of dollars in funding and millions of man-hours in labor and research yielded no results. These searches proved to be useless wastes of money. It took the communications revolution of the late 2050s, along with some brilliant work by the handsome and charismatic scientist, Kai Nissimov, to find the extraterrestrial signal. This signal was decoded in the late 2060s, and soon after, countries began preparing their responses. The location of the signal was determined to be coming from a planet near small stars roughly ten light years away. However, the extraterrestrials do not know if

anyone has actually located their message. A coalition led by both the United States of America and China petitioned every country the duties of responding to this message be handed into the hands of the United Nations Organization for Outer Space Affairs.

Country Positions:

USA:

The government of the United States of America played a key role in giving the UN the power to determine the response and the possible future of humanity. The government itself believes that the entire planet should focus on the defense and preservation of the human race since extraterrestrials may be hostile and try to wipe out all of humanity. Still, the nation believes the world should make contact eventually in order to gain the knowledge and experiences of the extraterrestrials.

UK:

The government of the United Kingdom has suggested that, the governments of the world should unite in their efforts of developing weapons in the event of an attack, whilst simultaneously contacting the extraterrestrials. Whilst the extraterrestrials may pose a threat, they are still a great distance away, and as such, the

human race has at least several years to prepare. Finally, the leaders of the UK have stated that a peaceful approach could be the best solution to these unknown beings.

Japan

The Japanese government determined that the best course of action would be to not contact the extraterrestrials.

Israel

News of the extraterrestrials in the Israeli government sparked a huge debate whether or not the government should send diplomats to communicate with the extraterrestrials. Government officials face extreme pressure as citizens urge them to consider negotiating extraterrestrials for the chance that they might be able to support the State of Israel. The Israeli government, however, believes that the extraterrestrials may pose a grave threat to the safety of the world.

France

The response of the French government was mostly lacking, as it opposed any violent actions, whilst simultaneously supporting communication with the extraterrestrials. The French government has stated that extraterrestrials may be completely

superior to us technologically. Thus, if they considered us a threat, then they would most likely destroy us and have an advantage doing so. The government further suggested that developing defensive technologies would also be futile as we could be seen as a threat.

Russia

Russia's government advocates for spying on extraterrestrial communication to establish a basic understanding of their race. Furthermore, the government has stated that no action should be made until the threat level of these extraterrestrials is determined. Critics say that "spies" could be detected in the same way in which humans detected the extraterrestrial messages initially.

China

The Chinese Government, after determining the possible pros and cons, refused all pressure to communicate with the extraterrestrials. Believing extraterrestrials to be a grave threat to the very existence of humans, the Chinese government harshly declined any opportunities to make contact with these unknown beings. Moreover, the Chinese government believes that the world

must be united to develop weapons to defend the planet.

India

India supports communicating with the extraterrestrials because they think a show of force and strength will intimidate the extraterrestrials. The government also supports the French in the beliefs that setting up defenses gave the extraterrestrials the opportunity to see us as a threat that must be destroyed.

DPRK

The Democratic Republic of Korea's government believes that all extraterrestrials should be met with a show of humanity's power. The government argues that this should be done either through a preemptive strike by nuclear weapons or through other more conventional means. The aging Kim Jong Un has said that he doubts the authenticity of the message, as he believes the inferior imperialist oppressors of the western world are trying to lure out the immortal citizens of the glorious republic, to try and destroy their prosperity.

Cuba

The Cuban government did not believe that the transmission was real, and withheld it from the people to stop civil dissent.

However, increasing media attention has revealed the secret to the people. Still, the government's official stance is to reject any transmission and carry on with their lives. Ultimately, the Cuban government argues UNOOSA does not have the authority to implement any decisions, as it would impede upon national sovereignty.

Feel free to flush out these countries positions, however keep in mind their basic beliefs.

Questions to consider:

1. Does your country believe in military action or peaceful cooperation?
2. How does your country currently view topics similar to this one that may supplement your ideas?
3. How has your country responded to the message?
4. What actions should be taken against or for the extraterrestrials?
5. Should the UNOOSA act require countries to negotiate with the extraterrestrials?

