

**FORUM:** Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to prevent increased/uncontrolled militarization of outer space

**Main submitter:** Commonwealth of Australia

**Co-submitters:** Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Japan, Malta, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Ukraine, United States of America

THE DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE,

*Taking into account* the "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space" (PAROS) treaty,

*Deeply concerned* that the weaponization of space, the growing number of anti-satellite weapon tests, and the space debris that can threaten both civilian and military satellites essential for communication, navigation, and security, poses a risk to the peaceful exploration of space,

*Recognizing* the necessity of addressing the ever-evolving nature of the matter of space militarization and the insufficiencies of both the PAROS and OST treaties in providing the necessary legal coverage for preventing the increased presence of military technologies and devices due to modern technological developments

*Reminding* all nations of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which designates outer space as a shared domain for all humankind, banning the deployment of nuclear or any other weapons in space, and emphasizes its peaceful use,

*Recalling* the Resolution 76/23 made by the United Nations General Assembly in 2021, collected 163 votes which stresses the necessity to prevent an arms race in outer space,

1. Calls upon the international community to endorse and participate in the International Committee for Space Weaponization Regulation (ICSWR), spearheaded by Australia, the European Union, the USA, and willing allies worldwide, to address the escalating threat of weaponization of outer space and uphold the principles of international law, by which the ICSWR shall be tasked with:
  - a) establishing a Space Security Verification Mechanism (SSVM) to monitor space activities globally, utilizing satellite surveillance and data-sharing agreements to ensure transparency and detect violations,
  - b) coordinating allied military and political cooperation, ensuring international solidarity and collective response through measures such as but not limited to:
    - i. article 1 of the ICSWR enforcing the consensus that an attack on one member state's space property is an attack on all member states and will thus trigger an immediate and collective response, following the example of NATO,

- ii. The provision of a secure and permanent platform for military and political cooperation for all member states which would ensure the integration of member state's interests, defense and intelligence;
2. Calls upon the UN to commence deliberations for the implementation of increased regulations concerning the development, acquisition, and testing of both kinetic and non-kinetic space-bound weapons systems, with the aim of:
  - a) setting a legal precedent for the eventual universal prohibition of such military devices given the immense hazard they pose on the principle of peaceful exploration of outer space,
  - b) reducing the capacity of member states to replenish, maintain, or expand their stockpiles of such devices, through cooperation with ICSWR,
  - c) mitigating the danger posed by these effectors and the consequences of their utilization in international outer space activity;
3. Endorses a potential augmentation of UN, state, or private sector sourced funding towards awareness campaigns and activities in traditional and digital media that highlight the effects and consequences of space militarization, with the aim of:
  - a) educating civil society towards adherence to international regulations and the promotion of safe and peaceful activities in outer space,
  - b) limiting public tolerance globally for governmental military practices that have the potential to disrupt the civilian way of life along with impeding scientific advancements,
  - c) creating an environment in which unilateral military strategies concerning outer space will face their eventual demise due to public awareness of the consequences that they involve;
4. Approves the creation of an international communications and data sharing network through the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, open to all member states concerning space activity, so as to:
  - a) enhance global situational awareness regarding the availability of orbits, activities, and the overall capacity of the outer space environment to sustain further activities,
  - b) avoid the creation of risk intensive environment oi due to uncoordinated activity,
  - c) cultivate a spirit of multilateral cooperation in the domain of space with fellow member states,
  - d) improve communication and coordination between governmental agencies of member nations;

5. Further calls upon the United Nations Secretary-General along with other UN agencies and organizations, such as, but not limited to, the International Monetary Fund, The World Bank, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, fellow member states, relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and all other relevant stakeholders to create forms of financial, diplomatic, technical, or geopolitical incentives for nations which act in the outer space environment with manners who are not in alignment with international norms, with the aim of:
  - a) reaching universal adherence and agreement to policies that concern the question at hand and hold the capacity to greatly ameliorate the sense of security for peaceful activities in orbit,
  - b) promoting universal application of previous resolutions on treaties passed by the United Nations to all member states;
  
6. Invites all relevant stakeholders and signatories to the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 to strengthen its legal application and its relevance in the ever-changing technological and security environment of Outer Space and address emerging issues from contemporary technological developments and legal insufficiencies present in the document through:
  - a) the explicit ban of the placement of any device with the potential to harm in any extent civilian population on any space-craft in orbit,
  - b) the prohibition of the mounting or integration of any kinetic or non-kinetic effectors and mechanisms that serve national defensive and offensive purposes or policies to vehicles or any other means in orbit, with the exception of sensors and data-collecting equipment;
  
7. Further invites the United Nations Offices for Outer Space Affairs to draft a comprehensive multilateral framework in full cooperation with member states that aims to safeguard the responsible and sustainable usage of space without infringing on the national sovereignty of member states, with the aim of:
  - a) creating an environment with standardized regulations, practices, and norms that will aid drastically the development of the domain of space exploration for non-violent causes on both for private sector and governmental entities,
  - b) reaching consensus on issues and topics, such as but not limited to space debris collection and disposal, adherence to UN resolutions and treaties, space militarization, and lack of coordination, that threaten the prosperity of mankind and the security environment globally,
  - c) fostering an environment in which, despite recent geopolitical fragmentation, international communication, cooperation, and coordination on matters of outer space will thrive;

8. Recommends the creation of the Department of Orbital Demilitarization (DOD), under the existing United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) tasked with:
  - a) monitoring and verifying compliance with space demilitarization agreements,
  - b) conducting inspections of military space assets,
  - c) publishing regular reports to ensure transparency and build trust between nations.