**COUNTRY:TURKIYE**

**COMMITTEE:DISEC**

**AGENDA ITEM:** The Implications of the

Militarization of Space and Potential Dangers of

a Space Arms Race

Advancing in the field of astronomy and going beyond the world's borders has now become as important as being strong on the diplomacy and world. With the endless curiosity of people and the cooperation of technology, many satellites and people have been sent to space. With this changing development, every nation has already started to turn its eyes and heads upward.

Just as Ataturk, the first president of Turkiye and also known as the 'Father of the Turks', said "Future is in the skies" and set his goals in the skies, Turkiye also took its first steps towards space travel by opening the Astronomy Institute at Istanbul University in 1933. (1)And that it never took eyes off it. So  From the continuation of this process to the current date, it has sent a total of 8 communication and observation satellites by Turkiye.(2) It is proud to have sent the first Turkish astronaut, Alper Gezirvacı, to space. Later, Cihangir ATASEVER's departure to Tuva will be another pride for Turkey(3).Turkiye did not stop its work on space and continued.

However, with the developing technology, the dangers and possibilities of armament in space and races between countries are increasing. Space sources have changed and it turned into bigger levels that concern us about the future of the world and space. From that time, protecting our space became an international duty. Turkiye, in cooperation with the United Nations, is completely against such arms races by displaying peaceful behavior. It has many side effects, from governments' military investments to the economy, and may negatively increase weapons development to a higher level. In this case, it is doubtful that the steps and agreements previously taken will be useful against this technology. Turkiye signed these agreements to prevent space arms race problems and impacts of militarization to the United Nations Agreement on the Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts and the Return of Astronauts and Vehicles Launched into Space, dated April 22, 1968, with Turkiye and the United Nations, Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, dated 29 March 1972, Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Space, dated 12 November 1974, Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, dated 18 December 1979.(4)

According to Turkiye, one of the biggest steps that can be taken against these actions is international cooperation. Turkiye, which has joined the Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) as a member country, clearly demonstrates this.(5) One of Turkiye's future solutions is to add new ones to decisions and agreements by making them official, as well as international cooperation in armament in space. Weapon technology is developing rapidly and therefore previous decisions may have the risk of losing their functionality in the future. Depending on this development, Turkiye thinks that weapons should be classified and new rules and laws should be introduced. In a world of technology where the boundaries are expanding, the boundaries should always be kept fresh. Turkiye would like to reiterate that it is open to any solution that does not pose a threat to the future. All kinds of substances that hinder humanity in astronomy should come together and be neutralized. Because space will have to become our second home after a while.

**SOURCES**

1. <https://tua.gov.tr/tr/uzay-tarihcemiz>
2. <https://tua.gov.tr/tr/uzay-tarihcemiz>
3. <https://uzay.tubitak.gov.tr/tr/projeler/turk-astronot-ve-bilim-misyonu-projesi>
4. <https://tua.gov.tr/tr/uzay-tarihcemiz>-<https://www.mfa.gov.tr/uzay.tr.mfa>
5. <https://tua.gov.tr/tr/uzay-tarihcemiz>