**Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)**

**The Implications of the Militarization of Space and Potential Dangers of a Space Arms Race**

With the Government of the United Kingdom acting as the depositary for the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (also known as the Outer Space Treaty), an arms race in space has been a great threat to the stability of the United Kingdom for a long time. For the last 60 years, the United Kingdom has opposed the militarisation of outer space, and has even opposed the placement of weapons of mass destruction, specifically nuclear weapons, in orbit at the UN Security Council on 24 April 2024. The United Kingdom, has also been one of the first members of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), since 1958.

The United Kingdom believes that outer space should be regulated with strict laws and norms, and that the Outer Space Treaty should continue to be enforced. Unlawful acts done by states with the power to put weapons of mass destruction into orbit can have devastating consequences that might lead to mass extinction, and must be stopped with swift action, and laws put into place can help with that. The United Kingdom has been involved in the Space Race since its inception, working with states such as the United States in cases like the Ariel programme, which was a research programme that was organised by the United Kingdom and facilitated by the United States. The United Kingdom has also launched the Prospero X-3 satellite using a British rocket called the Black Arrow, becoming the sixth nation to put a satellite into orbit using its own rocket. Knowing the United Kingdom’s past with space technology, the UK is able to address issues related to cases of misuse of international space law.

As spaceflight capabilities of UN member states develop more and more, the committee must focus on how legislation can stop the increasing threat of conflict in outer space. First of all, the United Kingdom believes that swift action can de-escalate rising tensions between states that have access to space technology, and that strict legislation can stop conflict altogether. Secondly, authoritarian states such as Russia, who have been a threat to democratic legislation and have threatened the world with weapons of mass destruction should be punished with more economic sanctions. Finally, we must ensure that the development of weapons, with the purpose of putting them into orbit, is stopped as soon as possible.

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