DISEC

STUDY GUIDE

POWER OF THE PAST
PEOPLE OF THE FUTURE

GITO MUN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Letter from Secretary General

Most Esteemed Participants,

I, the Secretary-General of GITOMUN'24, am deeply honoured and privileged to welcome you to the seventh edition of our Model United Nations conference which will take place on 21-22-23-24 November 2024. I am delighted to see our journey continue as much as you, growing stronger each year to provide participants a conference that is fulfilling every aspect. From the earliest stages of planning, our academic and organizational teams have been working relentlessly to ensure that GITOMUN'24 upholds the high standards and enriching experiences that have come to define our conference. Our seventh edition marks not only a continuation but an evolution of what we aim to achieve, harnessing **the power of the past** to empower **the people of the future**.

This year, we are proud to host eight diverse committees, each providing a platform to delve into the pressing issues facing our world today. We are offering seven committees in English: the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the Joint Crisis Committee (JCC). Additionally, we are honoured to present our sole Arabic committee: جامعة الدول العربية (the Arab League.)

In the light of reuniting for GITOMUN'24, we are lectured by the wise words of a world peace advocate: "If the United Nations is to survive, those who represent it must bolster it, those who advocate it must submit to it; and those who believe in it must fight for it."

On behalf of the entire GITOMUN'24 team, I wish you all a fruitful, challenging, and rewarding experience. May this conference inspire you to continue your journey as advocates for peace, justice, and equality.

Welcome to the seventh edition of our Model United Nations. Let us make it a memorable one.

Yours in service,
Secretary-General
Meryem Sönmez

LETTER FROM THE UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

Esteemed Participants,

I would like to start by kindly welcoming you all to GITOMUN'24. My name is Lara and I am a first-year student at Bogazici University in the department of Translation and Interpreting Studies. Both throughout and prior to the conference, it is my utmost honor to serve you as the Under-Secretary-General responsible for the World Trade Organization, as well as your President Chair, ready to cater to all of your needs or questions.

Having started attending Model United Nations conferences in my hometown, Izmir, GITOMUN is going to be the first conference of my journey in Istanbul, which may be relatable for some of you first-timers out there. I'm feeling a deep sense of excitement and gratitude to get to share this experience with you as we go through this journey together in this committee. This guide will serve as an assistive tool on your research process to ensure your sufficiency and capability so that you won't struggle during discussions and debates in our meetings at all. If you do have any problems, questions, or are in need of any kind of assistance, be it prior to the conference or during it, please do not hesitate to reach out to me either in person or via the e-mail address paintybrush@outlook.com.

I'm eagerly awaiting for the chance to finally get to meet you all this November. Hope to see you at the conference for an exciting and enriching experience!

Sincerely, with much love,

Lara KARAKAYA
Under-Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

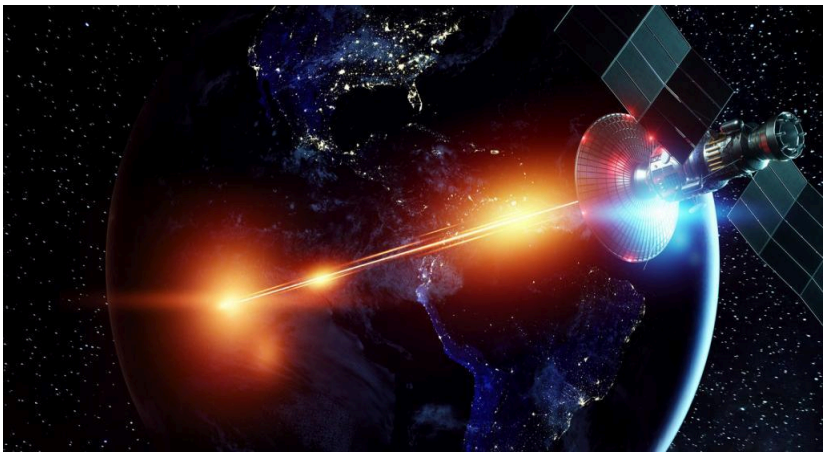
The United Nations General Assembly First Committee (C1), more commonly known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), is one of the six main committees under the General Assembly of the United Nations. It aims to promote stability across the globe by cooperating with the United Nations Disarmament Commission, a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament in order to maintain international security and establish regulations on armament.

Being the only committee that is entitled to verbatim records of the General Assembly, DISEC utilizes this power to ensure international cooperation and the rationalization of its work. A report is submitted on every agenda item, which summarizes the debate and proposes decisions that are then submitted to the plenary to be voted upon.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA ITEM

The Militarization of Space

All throughout history, the question whether space should be militarized or remain as a neutral ground has sparked major controversy and been addressed in several important settings regarding many different incidents. Following humankind's recent involvements in space, from the first ever satellite launch of Sputnik 1, to the Cold War and the Space Race, it seems evident that this question isn't one that us human beings are planning to leave alone very soon.



The term “space militarization” refers to the usage and abuse of space for military purposes ranging from communication and intelligence gathering for surveillance and reconnaissance to the utilization of space technologies and even the deployment of military personnel in space to support ongoing operations on Earth, while the term “space weaponization” refers to the development and deployment solely of weapons with the aim of being used in space, including defensive and offensive tools like anti-satellite weapons, kinetic energy weapons, laser weapons, and other types of weapons that can be used to destroy or disable satellites or other space-based assets. The distinction between these two terms comes from the term “militarization” encapsulating a broader area of any kind of military involvement while the term “weaponization” sticks solely to the weaponry and arms side.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND INVOLVEMENT IN SPACE

a. World War II

Although it might seem strange and unrelated, the Second World War was actually the triggering factor that precipitated the exploration of space. With the advancements in military technology and the development of longer-range missiles, this war paved the way towards creating the idea that reaching outer space was a possible concept, as the range and strength of missiles and rockets grew more powerful and even enough to reach orbital velocities by such power that was sufficient to challenge the Earth's gravitational pull.

Once it was realized by the Nazi Germany in the 1930s with the V-2 rocket that rockets could be weaponized to launch broader-scope attacks from further ranges, the notion that they could

perhaps go far enough to reach outer space began to occupy people's minds, making its way towards further and more extensive research in space travel.

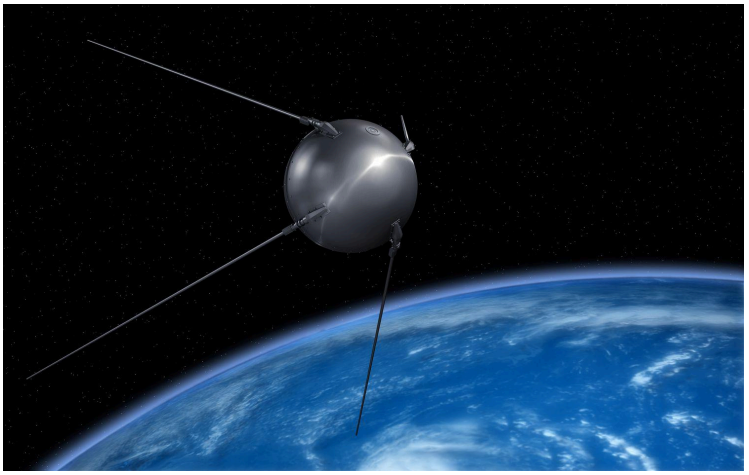
b. Cold War

The Cold War was a period of intense geopolitical tension and rivalry mainly between the states of the Soviet Union and the United States of America, along with their respective allies. As implied by its name, this period didn't include direct, "hot" military conflicts, but rather political and economic disputes involving propaganda, espionage, and other forms of indirect advances.

This period was one that resulted in disputes and competitions of superiority in many different aspects, including the ideological contrasts of capitalism versus communism, democracy versus state-controlled economy, and the main competition we will be handling in this guide, the competition to be the first nation to achieve success in the journey to reach and maintain superiority over the outer space: the Space Race.

Space Race

1. The Launch of Sputnik 1



Following the high incline in technological advancements and outer space research, the Soviet Union has created an impact that would shape the flow of the research world by launching the first ever man-made satellite into the Earth's orbit successfully, called Sputnik 1, on October 4, 1957. Two years prior to this launch, the USSR had hinted at it by responding to an announcement made by the United States of America on 2 August 1955, stating that they intended to launch the first artificial satellite into space.

2. The Launch of Sputnik 2 and Laika

Barely one month after the launch of Sputnik I, its successor, Sputnik II, was launched into the Earth's orbit on November 3, 1957. This launch differed greatly from its predecessor and created a groundbreaking impact because it marked the sending of the first ever living organism into space, which was a Moscovian stray mongrel named Laika, making the USSR the first nation to successfully do so. Although she was supplied with heaters and oxygen devices along with sensors to monitor her basic survival functions, the satellite was never designed to be retrievable, which means it had always been certain that Laika was sent to die. This tragic event did have a positive consequence: it began sparking controversy on the topic of animal testing as Laika made their suffering remarkably visible.

3. The Launch of Explorer 1

Contrary to the previous two, Explorer 1 was not launched by the Soviets, but rather it was the first satellite by the United States of America to be launched and reach Earth's orbit. The satellite was first launched on January 31 – February 1, 1958, with the aim of providing continuous data about space, which it did so until the exhaustion of its batteries after nearly four months, though it remained in Earth's orbit until 1970.

4. The Establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was founded on October 1, 1958, as an independent United States agency to aid in aeronautics and space research, replacing the previous organ on the topic which was the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA). Through its achievements, NASA managed to boost the global prestige of the United States of America, both during the Space Race and beyond.

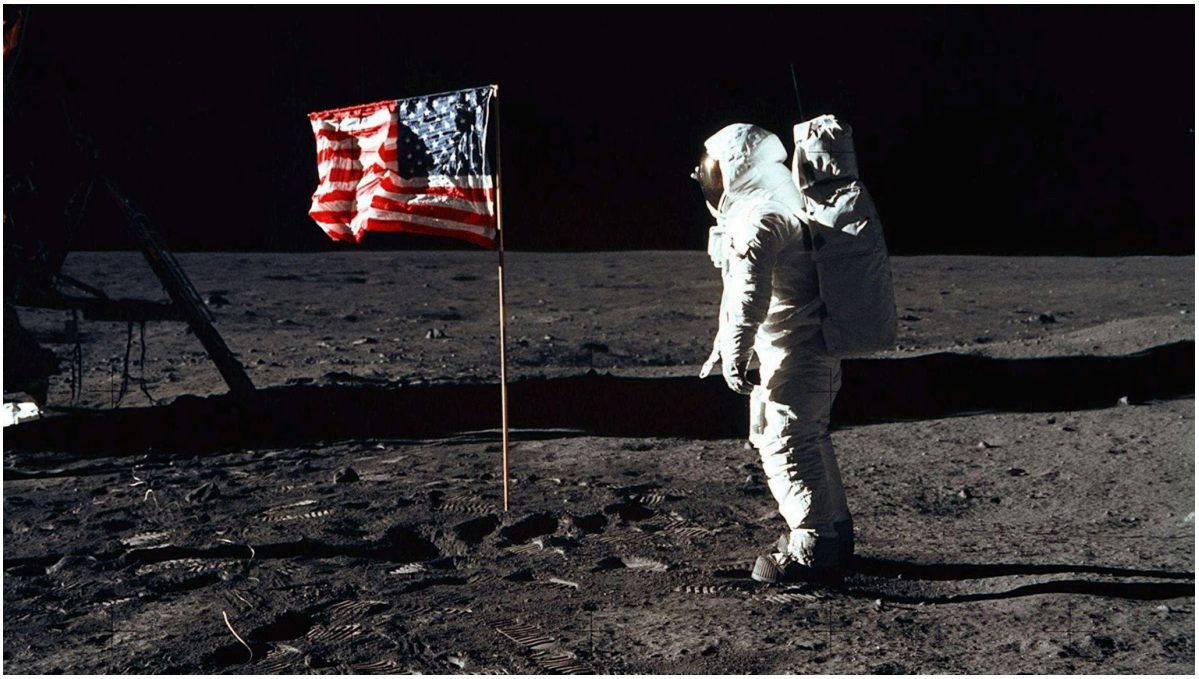
5. The Mission of Vostok 1

On April 12, 1961, the spacecraft Vostok 1 went on a groundbreaking mission. It wasn't any attribute it had or what it did that rendered this mission so important, but what it had inside. The spacecraft was the first one ever that carried a living, breathing, human being, the first ever human to launch into space, orbit the Earth, and successfully return back to make a safe landing: Yuri Gagarin.

Yuri Gagarin's launch and return marked a major point in history in terms of aeronautics and space research. With the missions of Sputnik 5 and Mercury-Redstone 2 showing with animals and plants that living beings can safely be returned back to Earth still alive, it was time to test whether that aliveness would persist if the organism was a human. The test, although very risky, was a success, with Gagarin managing to orbit the Earth once, which took one hour and forty-eight minutes, and then landing in Saratov Oblast, located in west Russia.

6. The Mission of Apollo 11

The mission of Apollo 11 may be the most memorable space mission in history in every one of our minds, occupying space as the "lunar landing", "moon landing", or "the first steps on the moon". Led by Commander Neil A. Armstrong and his two crewmates, Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, this mission marked the first ever arrival of humankind on the surface of the Moon, deeming it a very important milestone in the history of human involvement in space. "That's one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind," as described in the words of Neil Armstrong.



Launched on July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 went on to successfully reach the surface of the Moon and on July 20, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to leave their steps on the Moon's surface, with their crewmate Michael Collins remained inside the command and service module, called Columbia, to orbit above them.

The launch was streamed live across many different nations all around the world, with hundreds of millions of people watching in awe as the ship took off. The widespread publicity of this success achieved by the United States of America caused the nation to gain acknowledgment, reputation, and a global perception of superiority in the aspect of aeronautics and spatial domination. It is agreed upon by many experts and historians that this event marks the end of the Space Race, with the United States of America being considered the unofficial "winner", although these opinions vastly vary as the Soviet Union continued to obtain a series of pioneering achievements in space research and aeronautics like the Soyuz 11 spacecraft docked with the Salyut 1 space laboratory, so most would rather believe that there was no definite "victory".

CURRENT STATUS ON THE MILITARIZATION OF SPACE

As described in its history, the militarization and weaponization of space, while being a relatively new concept, cannot be considered entirely "new." Many states in the world that are considered as main powers in this area have already developed military units designed to be specialized to be deployed in space operations, and more and more nations are on the path towards developing and testing space equipment, arms, and weaponry, like kinetic and non-kinetic weapons. Some justify it as a means of maintaining international security, while others believe that this may cause even more disputes on dominion over space.

Kinetic Weapons

Kinetic weapons are defined as those that have the physical capability to cause direct damage and destroy manmade or naturally-existing objects, both from and to, in space and on Earth. Some examples for kinetic weapons include anti-satellite missiles that are deployed from Earth with the aim of targeting satellites generally belonging to an opposing state. Several nations currently obtain such weapons and many have tested and even used them in the past. Kinetic weapons offer a significant advantage over others to the country that is utilizing them as they may be used for targeting objects both in space and on Earth, posing a great threat towards the national security systems.

Non-Kinetic Weapons

Non-kinetic weapons differ from their kinetic counterparts in the way that they cause indirect harm while not directly making contact with their targets by utilizing laser technologies, jammers, electromagnetic pulses, and high-powered microwaves, and these may include cyber attacks as well. The usage of tracking and surveillance technologies with the objective of causing harm to satellites and other space technologies may also be considered as a non-kinetic weaponization of such technology.

Major Powers and Stakeholders

United States of America

Having its history in space rooted in the *Space Race,* the United States of America is without a doubt one of the main influences when it comes to space, with its significant military presence and advanced space technologies, along with the largest budget among any other nation directed towards spending on space programs. The sixth main branch of the military of the United States being the United States Space Force makes it evident that it's one of the main focus areas of the nation.

Being the sixth branch of its military, the United States Space Force is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping space-qualified personnel. In order to carry out its operations, the Space Command has also been reestablished for the nation to be prepared for potential wars and conflicts in space.

The United States of America sees any advancements of other nations in space technology as a huge threat to its national and global safety and security. To counter these threats mainly by China and Russia, the United States Space Force possesses several counter-space weapons like anti-satellite missiles, ground-based jammers, and more.

As stated by President Donald Trump in 2019, the United States believes the policy that

"Space is the world's newest war-fighting domain."

Russian Federation

With its predecessor, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, being the pioneer and leading nation to advance in aeronautics and space research, the Russian Federation has not strayed far from its historical superiority. Globally, the Russian space program is widely acclaimed and recognized as one of the most prestigious and leading one of such programs in the world. With its history as the Soviet Union dating back to the Cold War, Space Race, and the launches of both the first ever artificial satellite and the first human into the Earth's orbit, it

has also been majorly dependent on by the International Space Station for Russian launch vehicles.

Over the years, Russia has sparked somewhat of a controversy by openly declaring space as a war-fighting domain and continuously deploying and testing space weapons, while also contradictingly supporting space arms agreements to control and prevent the weaponization of space.

A new branch of the Russian Armed Forces, called the Aerospace Forces, was established in 2015 and included a specialized force of the Space Forces. These forces have the main aim and obligation of creating secure accessibility of the Russian Federation to space. Similarly to the United States of America, these Russian forces are also equipped with counter-space technologies that have the capability of attacking their adversaries.

People's Republic of China

Over the past decade, the People's Republic of China has shown great advancements in the way to become one of the greatest economic and military powers in the world, and that power of course extended over to space power. Although it is claimed by the Chinese that they only aim to use space for peaceful means, officials have declared space as "a new domain for contemporary military conflicts", recognizing its value and capacity to leave big impacts on the rules of warfare. China considers dominance over space as a crucial factor in winning wars and conflicts, believing that it provides "unprecedented war advantages from space".

The Strategic Support Force (SSF) of China, established by the People's Liberation Army in 2015, is responsible for conducting modern combat across space and cyberspace. Divided into the Network Systems Department for cyber and electronic warfare, and the Space Systems Department for space operations, this force acts as a symbol of China's focus on expanding its military power in these domains. These forces are equipped with both kinetic and non-kinetic space weaponry, making them a great power in the military aspect.

India

Although a relatively late actor on the topic of the militarization of space, India has been moving at an accelerating speed in space and aeronautical research, ever since the establishment of its first ever space related organization, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), in the year 1969. The organization mainly focused on the applications of communication, navigation, earth observation, and scientific research on space. Followed by the determination of the Indian Space Program, India began to rise as one of the main factors in space with the missions of Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan missions. Having expanded widely, ISRO now holds the capacity to carry out rocket launches to interplanetary missions, to even the development of anti-satellite weaponry and an indigenous navigation system.

Throughout the years, the focus and goals of India's space program has shifted from commercialization towards maintaining national security and the entry into human space exploration. India carried out its first anti-satellite weapon test in 2019, on a step towards testing its space defense capabilities, and currently holds the goals of establishing its own space station, the Indian Space Station, by 2035, and also to continue its exploration of Mars, launch missions to Venus, and study cosmic X-rays as part of its future space endeavors.

European Union

The European Union (EU) is an intergovernmental economic and political organization formed among 27 European member states that holds the common principles of freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law, promoting peace and stability across the entirety of Europe. Since its establishment in the 1950s to promote prosperity after World War II with only six founding countries, it has grown to encompass an area consisting of almost 450 million people.

Although not a single state, the European Union as a whole counts as one of the major actors in space. While each member state determines its own military strategies, these strategies, advancements, and techniques are often used for the collective aim of aiding the entire European Union, deeming its importance impossible to ignore.

The belief that space should be accessible by each sovereign state independently held by the Union has led it to invest immense amounts in space research, programs, and systems, including the European global navigation satellite systems (EGNOS and Galileo) and the Earth observation program Copernicus. While these systems mainly serve civilian purposes, they also hold the capacity to be utilized for military purposes through operational control, indigenous intelligence, and early warning, surveillance, and tracking systems and technologies.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental political and military alliance with the aims of *promoting democratic values and enabling members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, building trust and, in the long run, preventing conflict* in the political aspect, and peacefully resolving disputes through diplomatic efforts, and if those fail, undertaking crisis-management operations as per its founder treaty, in the military aspect.[1]

As the largest military alliance on the globe, NATO has also issued statements, programs, and operations on the topic of the militarization of space. It was announced in December 2019 that space would be the fifth main domain of operations carried out by the organization, with the stated aim of fulfilling its core tasks to ensure collective defense, crisis management, and cooperative security, aided with a Space Center at NATO's Allied Air Command in Germany established in the year 2020. Alarmed by opposing states such as China and Russia having recklessly and irresponsibly tested counter-space technologies like anti-satellite missiles, which can cause threats like satellite interference, NATO recognises that *attacks to, from or within space present a clear challenge to the security of the Alliance and could lead to the invocation of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.*[2]

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization believes that space is a critical area for its allies in terms of security and defense, listing the following areas as its basis:

[1] https://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html
[2] https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_175419.htm

positioning, navigation and timing, which enables precision strikes, tracking of forces or search and rescue missions;

early warning, which helps to ensure force protection and provides vital information on missile launches;

environmental monitoring, which enables meteorological forecasting and mission planning;

secure satellite communications, which are essential for missions to enable consultation, command and control;

intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, which are crucial for situational awareness, planning and decision-making.

International Agreements

Outer Space Treaty

Authored in 1966, signed in January 1967, and entered into force in the month of October of the same year, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, shortly and more commonly known as the Outer Space Treaty, is unanimously considered as one of the main international agreements when it comes to space law. Directed towards its time's main global stakeholders in space technologies and weaponry, those being Russia as the Soviet Union then, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the treaty aimed to set and globalize a basic framework on international space law, including the principles listed below that;

a. the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind;

b. outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States;

c. outer space is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means;

e. States shall not place nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies or station them in outer space in any other manner;

f. the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes;

g. astronauts shall be regarded as the envoys of mankind;

h. States shall be responsible for national space activities whether carried out by governmental or non-governmental entities;

i. States shall be liable for damage caused by their space objects; and

j. States shall avoid harmful contamination of space and celestial bodies.

Artemis Accords

Established in 2020, the Artemis Accords are a set of principles authored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in accordance with its Artemis program, which has been announced to be *the broadest and most diverse international human space exploration program in history*, and that these accords will serve as *the vehicle that will establish this singular global coalition*. The Artemis Accords aim to serve the purpose of guiding space exploration cooperation among member states that take part in NASA.

Currently, Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America pose as the founding member nations and the signatories of the Artemis Accords.

The Artemis Accords also hold the aim of avoiding conflict in space and on Earth by strengthening mutual understanding and reducing misperceptions. NASA's acting associate administrator for international and interagency relations, Mike Gold, has stated that NASA holds the belief that transparency, public registration, and deconflicting operations are the main fundamental principles on the matter of preserving global and universal peace and peaceful relations between nations, while helping them enhance their progress in space exploration.

Recent Phenomena and Concepts

Kessler Syndrome

The terms Kessler syndrome, Kessler effect, collisional cascading, or ablation cascade all refer to the hypothetical scenario of the overwhelming pollution in the lower orbit of Earth managing to collide enough to cause a cascade as each collision would introduce more space debris inro the orbit, leading to more and more potential collisions. Proposed in 1978 by NASA scientists Donald J. Kessler and Burton G. Cour-Palais, this phenomenon proposed the idea that the incline in the collision frequency of artificial satellites would lead to the creation of a belt around the Earth's orbit that consisted of space debris.

This effect remains misunderstood as its full implications have yet to be observed, though experts caution that such a scenario could seriously impact space exploration and satellite use. In the event of the Kessler Syndrome reaching critical levels, Earth's orbit could become so surrounded with space debris that operations to space might be at risk of being dangerous or even impossible for extended periods since this debris belt could pose severe risks to satellites, space stations, and other orbiting objects, as well as posing threats to any new launches.

Ethical Dilemma of Militarizing Space

With opposing viewpoints from all around the globe, the dilemma on the question whether space should be militarized or not remains an unanswered one. While some believe that space should remain as a neutral and peaceful ground with free international access to every state, several other states and organizations like NATO see space as a new domain for warfare.

The issue of the militarization of space brings about several ethical, legal, and security concerns with it. While one side of this dilemma emphasizes the necessity of militarizing space to ensure and maintain national and global security through the utilization of satellites and communication systems for surveillance, navigation, and universal defense, the opposing side firmly stands against the idea of militarizing space in the fear of the potential weaponization of space for malicious purposes. The misuse of this permission may cause

instability through damages to other nations' property, or may even lead to a new kind of space war, more advanced and dangerous than the previous space race.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

1) How can it be ensured that space remains accessible for all states while preventing them from using it for malicious purposes?

2) Should space remain as a universal neutral ground in peace or should every sovereign state be given the freedom to utilize it to further their technological research and advancements? Why or why not?

3) How can anti-satellite weapon testing be regulated to maintain their effectiveness while prohibiting them from harming satellites belonging to other nations?

4) What role do private companies and corporations play in space exploration and militarization, and how can states regulate such companies to prevent potential security risks?

5) How can the question of accountability be handled in terms of holding states responsible for the results of their actions in space, such as space debris or other dangerous situations?

6) How can the balance between the lines of maintaining national security and unjustly weaponizing space be regulated?

7) How can already existing international treaties, agreements and other legally-binding instruments be reflected upon and improved to further advance their efficacy?

8) How might the militarization of space affect the advancements in the scientific field in aeronautics and space research?

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