

**Responsibility of the United Nations for Regulating the Use of
Outer Space**

**Study in Long-Term Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space.**

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Abstract

It is important to have a legal international treaty and a comprehensive definition of outer space to avoid international legal disputes, with the human interest and equality between states for using and exploring outer space without any discrimination.

The crux of the research is the need to establish an international regime for the peaceful use of outer space because no framework governs the sustainable use of outer space as well as peaceful purposes. Also, the importance of establishing an international regime. Furthermore, to increase the awareness of the state's responsibility in this field.

The study aims to focus on identifying the legal challenges of sustainable outer space, and to increase awareness of the state's responsibilities regarding outer space protection and the use of it for a peaceful purpose.

Keywords: United Nations, Use of Outer Space, Responsibility Guidelines, Sustainability.

Introduction

1.1 Study Background

Exploring outer space is not an easy task³, because it needs time, and effort, as well as costs the state that is interested in exploring and using outer space a lot of money. Most importantly it requires knowledge and high technology and sciences. So, establishing a legal system is essential to the exploration and use of outer space for safe and peaceful purposes. Since the beginning of the space age, the United Nations General Assembly has called for the common interest of mankind in outer space and has issued many resolutions for this purpose. For example, Resolution 1721 which it made in 1961 excludes the seizure of national law in outer space. However, it applied international law to outer space and celestial bodies. Furthermore, it recognized the common interest of mankind in using outer space for peaceful purposes and stated that the exploration and use of outer space should only be for the benefit and

³ Bowling, C. & Pierson, E. & Ratte, S. (2011). *The Common Concern of Humankind: A Potential Framework for a New International Legally Binding Instrument on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in the High Seas*.

interest of mankind, especially since all states have the right to outer space.⁴

For decades, the exploration of outer space has been a passion for humans, which makes them venture into it, as it helps answer essential questions about the universe, encouraging a peaceful connection between states. As a result, the UN must have an International Legal Regime of Peaceful Use that regulates the Sustainable Use of Outer Space.

The UN concluded the Outer Space Convention in 1967, through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which provides that outer space is for all humans to explore and use in peace without discrimination.

In addition, to contribute with international cooperation in exploring outer space in both legal and scientific aspects, which leads to joint understanding and supporting the relationship between people and States. Other agreements and treaties that the UN concluded were the

⁴ Anja Nakarada Pecujlic, *The Space Law Stalemate* (Taylor & Francis 2023).

Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space in 1968. After that, the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects 1972, followed by the 1974 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. The last treaty was in 1979 regarding the Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

Furthermore, the definition of the long-term Sustainable Use of Outer Space is the ability to keep implementing space activities for a long time. By doing so, we meet the needs of the present generation of space exploration while maintaining the outer space environment for future generations and using it for peaceful purposes.

According to Article III of the Outer Space Treaty, all state has the right, without any exception, to use and explore outer space to benefit mankind without any discrimination, According to International law, such as the Charter of the United Nations.

The peaceful use of space is the basic principle of international space law, so it should protect the sustainable use of outer space. The term peaceful purpose is debatable, it has two meanings, such as non-

aggressive, meaning non-military. Moreover, Peaceful purposes also describe the prohibition of specific weapons in open spaces. For example, weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons. Since the beginning of the space race, experts have focused on research and study principles of the common heritage of mankind, and new terms and expressions in the international law field. So, the common heritage of mankind became a very important principle.⁵

The United Nations General Assembly emphasizes the common heritage of mankind in outer space without any discrimination. As we know, traditional international law provides states with the right to impose their sovereignty over air and space above the state's territory. However, this rule is not appropriate now with the recent technology and increased space activities in outer space.

Resolution 1721, issued in 1961, bans national appropriation in outer space. As well as it applies international law to outer space and celestial bodies by using outer space for peaceful purposes. In addition, the

⁵ Bowling, C. & Pierson, E. & Ratte, S. (2011). *The Common Concern of Humankind: A Potential Framework for a New International Legally Binding Instrument on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in the High Seas*.

Resolution confirms that it should exclusively be for the benefit of mankind. As we know, the phrase common heritage of mankind has been used in many international law treaties. For example, the UNESCO Convention focuses on protecting the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972. The next Convention that used the term common heritage of mankind was the Moon Convention, which was drafted in 1979. Finally, the Convention on the Seas of the World 1982. In general, the term common heritage of mankind is familiar in international treaties, and at the level of international action.⁶

1.2 Research Objectives

- To identify the legal challenges of Sustainable usage of outer space.
- To increase awareness of the state's responsibilities about outer space protection and use it for a peaceful purpose.
- To present recommendations to have a long-term space sustainability law.

⁶ Anja Nakarada Pecujlic, *The Space Law Stalemate* (Taylor & Francis 2023).

1.3 Research Questions

1. What are the challenges of sustainable use of outer space?
2. What is the concept of the common heritage of mankind from using outer space for a peaceful purpose?

1.4 Significance of the study

The study focuses on the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines, as well as giving the factors of importance as it will increase the awareness of the state's responsibility in this field.

1.5 Methodology

To have findings relevant to the research problem, it should develop and implement an appropriate research methodological framework. For instance, appropriate research theories, tools, and data collection, interpretation, and analysis techniques. Additionally, the legal research approach is a method that achieves the researcher's legal facts.

This study will be using the descriptive analytical approach, for the reason that it gives a comprehensive description of the subject from its different relevant aspects involved around the problem of matter and all its dimensions to describe outer space and the concepts related to it by highlighting the extent to which they achieve the purposes and goals of

the United Nations to serve all humanity, and to clarify the legal features of the legal regime for the use and exploration the outer space in peaceful purposes.

This approach depends on collecting information and analyzing the legal data on international law from the texts of international conventions, General Assembly resolutions, and international law principles related to outer space law and obtaining legal provisions for the subject of the study in general, which will be applied in the study by learning about international treaties, agreements, and laws since the study is closely linked to it. Finally, the outcomes and recommendations will be discussed in the aspects of international law treaties, and the future scopes in these research fields will be put into view.

The data and evidence for research purposes are collected from primary and secondary sources. So, the secondary data will be used from sources such as journal articles, books, and databases.

The Responsibility of the United Nations in Regulating the Use of Outer Space and UN COPUOS Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines

This paper will discuss the responsibilities of the United Nations in the regulations of the use of outer space and the UN sustainability guidelines. The primary objective of this chapter is to discuss the guidelines issued by the UN and their importance.

History of the United Nations

The world peace organization, United Nations (UN), is an initiative started with efforts and agreements from fifty countries. The United Nations was established in October 1945. The UN was created to maintain peace and sustainability in the world. After 1944, the Second World War was close to ending in 1945. Nations were ruined due to the devastating effects of the war. The two wars, almost consecutive, left

the involved nations in ruins. Several countries suffered collateral damage from the wars and were devastated by their results.⁷

A conference in San Francisco in April of 1945 preceded the organization's establishment. The conference was named the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco. The conference went on for two straight months, with nations and their representatives gathering at the same place to draft a united effort for world peace. During the two months, national representatives took part in the conference to list their demands and how they can contribute to the aim of the UN. During that time, nations pleaded with how they believed they could contribute to the betterment and safety of the world.⁸

The UN Conference on International Organization in San Francisco ended on June 26th, 1945. The main period of development took place after the conclusion of the conference. Several measures have been listed from all chartering nations; thus, after the conference, a two-month period of drafting and signing the UN charter began. National

⁷ Intrator, Miriam (2019). *Books across Borders: UNESCO and the Politics of Postwar Cultural Reconstruction*, Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2019 Springer.

⁸ Mingst, K. & Karns, M. & Lyon, A. (2022). *The United Nations in the 21st Century* (fifth edition) Routledge.

representatives regulated and drafted the UN charter and signed the treaty to help the world avoid any horror that remotely resembled the world wars they had just suffered. On October 24, 1945, the United Nations came into existence, and its charter was signed.⁹

The needs not envisioned by member states during its primary establishment have since been incorporated into UN goals. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 and International Space treaties are among the updated goals. Sustainable development has rapidly become a rising need for the world and is among the most important missions of the UN.¹⁰

The UN has provided member states with several forms of security and safety. Humanitarian aid, upholding international treaties and laws between nations. One of the most significant factors working in favor of the UN's history is that it is constantly working for the future and its

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Intrator, Miriam (2019). *Books across Borders: UNESCO and the Politics of Postwar Cultural Reconstruction*, Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2019 Springer.

betterment. The future and past of the UN are still being written with steps that are taken regularly for world peace and order.¹¹

The UN is responsible for several peaceful resolutions and is one of the main organizations responsible for avoiding future wars and conflicts between nations.

Background of UN COPUOS

There have been several initiatives adopted by the United Nations, such as the UN COPUOS. Further discussion on the UN COPUOS background will be conducted in the below segment.

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was established in the year 1959 as a response to the rapid advancements in space exploration during the Cold War era. The international community recognized the need for cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space to prevent any potential conflicts and ensure the responsible use of space technologies. The General Assembly began

¹¹ Mingst, K. & Karns, M. & Lyon, A. (2022). *The United Nations in the 21st Century* (fifth edition) Routledge.

the CUPUOS to develop and assemble measures that would establish benefits in using space. The primary aim of the CUPUOS since its establishment has been the peaceful and fair use of space by all members of the UN. Through the CUPUOS, the UN declared space as a ground for peaceful use and human development, and exploration, security purposes, and so on are some of the primary goals of the UN in space exploration.¹²

By fostering international collaboration and establishing guiding principles, COPUOS continues to play a vital role in promoting the responsible and peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of all nations. A few of the primary reasons behind the formation of the committee have been a review of international partnerships in peacefully using outer space, examining the activities of outer space and the activities that may transpire there, and so on. The committee also encourages expedition programs and their examination to maintain peace internationally. The UN and the CUPUOS have played the most influential role in establishing treaties and principles of outer space.

¹² Report of the legal sub-committee on the work of its 29th session, 2-20 April 1989: Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space. (1990). New York: UN.

CUPUOS has developed five principles and treaties regarding space exploration.¹³

During its development, the committee was divided into two distinguishing segments. The two segments have served as major pillars in helping the CUPUOS branch with the aim of peaceful use of outer space for the development of Earth and its people. The two segments of the CUPUOS are the scientific and technical and legal segments and the subcommittee for legal. The General Assembly of the UN and its fourth committee look over all the actions and decisions made by the CUPUOS and its segments. Space research programs have taken the most attention from the UN and its member states. Through the space research programs, the UN and its member states have greatly advantaged under the thorough and legalized guidelines of the CUPUOS.¹⁴

The UN has had a thorough history of creating resolutions that dictate the peaceful use of outer space. The UN has focused its attention on outer space since the launch of the first-ever human-created satellite.

¹³ Intrator, Miriam (2019). *Books across Borders: UNESCO and the Politics of Postwar Cultural Reconstruction*, Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2019 Springer.

¹⁴ Katarzyna Malinowska, *Space Insurance: International Legal Aspects* (Kluwer Law International, 2017).

The committee, during its establishment, was composed of 18 member states. The member states initiated the programs and treaties under the helpful guidance of the UN and used their resources to make regulations that ensure the peaceful use of outer space and outer space bodies. The scientific and technical segment manages to operate the development of programs that help create better and more peaceful use of outer space. On the other hand, the legal segment or subcommittee helps the UN and the CUPUOS manage the problems that may arise during the initiation of the programs.¹⁵

The UN CUPUOS has become largely responsible for the successful establishment, development, and continued improvement of space sustainability. As discussed, the UN COPOUS is an important organization for the future sustainability of space.

In summary, the background of UN COPUOS reflects the international community's commitment to ensuring the peaceful and responsible use of outer space, transcending political and ideological differences for the collective benefit of humanity.

¹⁵ *Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space* (United Nations Office for outer space affairs 2021).

Definitions

The UN CUPUOS is the governing organization of the UN that regulates the peaceful use of all outer space and its celestial bodies. The UN has successfully achieved outer space peace with the help of the various regulations and principles imposed by the UN CUPUOS. The UN-imposed sustainability goals are agendas that UN members have signed on to achieve by the year 2030.¹⁶

COPUOS's Role is to formulate principles and guidelines for the peaceful use of outer space, address legal and technical issues, and facilitate international collaboration. It is not a governing body but acts as a forum for member states to discuss and coordinate activities in outer space.

Comparison with UAE

In comparison to the treaties and regulations imposed by the UN, the UAE has its international space treaties and regulations. In comparison

¹⁶ Malinowska, Katarzyna (2017). *Space Insurance: International Legal Aspects*. Kluwer Law International B.V.

to the UN's five outer space regulatory treaties, the UAE is a signatory to three treaties. Among the three treaties, the UAE signed the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and agreed upon it between the country and the UN. The Liability Convention of 1972 has also been signed and agreed upon by the UAE. Lastly, the Registration Convention, created in 1975, is one of the most regulated conventions signed by the UAE. Several nations have not been on board with the treaties and regulations of the UN, but in comparison to them, the UAE has shown great support since the beginning.¹⁷

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has made significant strides in the field of space exploration and development in recent years. Here are some key aspects of the UAE's space endeavors such as the National Space Program, Mars Mission - Hope Probe, and Satellite Programs.

The UAE actively collaborates with international partners in the field of space exploration. This includes partnerships with organizations such as NASA and other space agencies, fostering knowledge exchange and cooperation.

¹⁷ Inshakova, A. & Inshakova, E. (2022). *New Technology for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth: Technological Support, Standards and Commercial Turnover*. Springer Singapore.

The UAE's achievements in space exploration demonstrate its commitment to becoming a significant player in the global space community. Through a combination of scientific missions, satellite programs, international partnerships, and investments in education and technology, the UAE continues to make noteworthy contributions to space exploration and innovation.

The Importance of the UN Guidelines

Guidelines adopted and published by the UN are significantly important to help the world in creating a safe and secure world. These guidelines serve as frameworks, principles, and recommendations to address complex issues that require coordinated efforts among nations. There are some key reasons highlighting the importance of the UN Guidelines such as Global Cooperation, Peace and Security, Human Rights and Social Justice, Sustainable Development, Humanitarian Assistance, Environmental Protection, Public Health, International Law, and Justice, Cultural and Educational Exchange, and Capacity Building.

The true importance of the UN guidelines will be further discussed in the below segment.

Due to the responsibilities shouldered by the General Assembly, the world has become far more peaceful, and countries have become much more integrated than before its formulation. Throughout its establishment, the UN has offered its member states several guidelines. The guidelines are for different operation areas and international regulations between nations. All member states agree upon the guidelines developed by the UN. The UN guidelines constitute structural development plans for the different areas of operation. The guidelines are provided for outer space exploration, business management and development, consumer demand and behavior, and so on. The UN guidelines hold high importance in its operations and for its member states. The regulations and guidelines provided by the UN are a unique set of regulations that help the world become vastly advanced. The UN offers characteristics and features in the form of principles and guidelines. The characteristics help the UN General Assembly member states guide a process. The processes are developed through clarity in the decision-making process. Every effective legislation that has been in effect due to the regulations imposed by the UN assists the member states in helping their country in a particular direction. The guidelines and principles in effect as per the decisions of the UN are formulated

and uplifted on every level of the member states. At the domestic, national, and international, and so on. The guidelines are extremely important because they keep the members of the General Assembly in line with the goals of the UN. One of the most significant regulations of the UN is in terms of outer space treaties and expeditions. Currently, outer space regulations and treaties are one of the top priorities for the UN. Outer space treaties allow the UN to prepare various measures to protect outer space peace. Resources and materials in the Earth's orbit must be protected from threats. Currently, several countries possess a large arsenal of nuclear weapons. The nuclear weapons in possession of powerful countries can pose a large threat to the world and outer space. The treaties and guidelines imposed by the UN help protect the world from nuclear wars. All the regions that lie under the territory of the member states of the General Assembly signed peace treaties posed by the UN.¹⁸

Since outer space has become a region beyond the territory of any nation, it became increasingly important for the UN to create laws and guidelines that would restrict any nuclear weapons placed in Earth's

¹⁸ Bentley, Matthew (2005). *Tracking Progress: Implementing sustainable consumption policies*. United Nations Publication.

orbit or in outer space by any country. Weapons of mass destruction have posed an enormous threat to the world. If weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear weapons or any other weapons, are placed in outer space, it can cause a major threat to the sanctity of the peace treaties. The guidelines proposed and imposed by the United Nations restrict the use of Earth's orbit and any celestial bodies for placing weapons of mass destruction. Various space laws help guide the use of outer space for the advancement of research and development. One of the primary reasons why the outer space guidelines imposed by the UN are highly important is because they reflect the peace and justice of the world, even in celestial bodies outside of Earth's orbit. After the Second World War, national and international development became highly endangered. Countries that participated in wars were largely affected and were in ruins. The infrastructure of Europe, Asia, as well as several portions of Africa, were ruined and were struggling to gain any form of development and protection. The scattered state of the countries brought into discussion unity. A unity that would help create guidelines for peace and resolution between nations.¹⁹

¹⁹ Bentley, Matthew (2005). *Tracking Progress: Implementing sustainable consumption policies*. United Nations Publication.

The guidelines and regulations that it imposed have allowed for universal development on several fundamental issues. International peace and security are helmed by one of the bases of the UN. The UN has also imposed several sustainable development and environmental development guidelines. Thus, the UN guidelines have been important in the past, and continue to be important for the future. The UN establishes several grounds and layers of guidelines that are severely important for the member states and their civilians.²⁰

In summary, the UN Guidelines play a pivotal role in promoting global stability, cooperation, and development by providing a common framework for nations to address shared challenges. They embody the collective efforts of the international community to create a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

²⁰ Reiser, Richard (2012). *Implementing Inclusive Education: A Commonwealth Guide to Implementing Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (second edition) Charlesworth press.

The UN Shapes Worldwide Sustainability

The renowned intergovernmental organization not only caters to needs on national but also on several international and intergovernmental levels. The organization has served as the mediator between several nations with rough diplomatic relations. On the various agendas uplifted by the UN.²¹

To shape worldwide sustainability, the UN and its member states have taken upon seventeen different interlinked goals to help develop sustainability. All seventeen SDGs are shared between the member states of the UN. The UN has laid out the SDGs in a key effort toward shaping worldwide sustainable development. Several key organizations from member states are collaborating through intergovernmental efforts in ways that would create helpful and effective action. High-level and high-profile organizations, such as those focused on taking due action, have been helped by the UN as the ones responsible for monitoring the actions taken in favor of the SDGs. As of today, a total of one hundred and ninety-three countries have become a part of the global peace and safety mission that is the UN. During all the fundamental missions of

²¹ Browne, Stephen (2017). *Sustainable Development Goals and UN Goal-Setting*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

the UN, all member states are asked to become a part of creating unity in development. The goals of the UN are formed as per the goals and needs of the member nations. Since its establishment, the UN and its member states have taken part in various missions and goals. The people, the planet, and the prosperity of all for peace and a partnership are the goals that have led to the formation and success of the goals. As of 2015, the member states developed, agreed, and signed up on the 2030 Agenda.²²

The United Nations General Assembly gathered in September 2015 and approved the transformative vision to lead the world toward its progress. The sustainable development goals monitor the progress of the General Assembly states in three primary routes. Social sustainability development, economic sustainability development, and environmental sustainability development goals are the three focus routes of the 2030 Agenda. Several reasons led to the decision to SDG formation. One of the primary reasons was to help member nations become highly advanced and make significant progress through partnership. Goals for intergovernmental prosperity led to the formation and development of

²² Browne, Stephen (2017). *Sustainable Development Goals and UN Goal-Setting*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

the SDGs. Ambitious goals that would lead the UN General Assembly members to create a transformed world are the efforts of the UN to shape worldwide sustainability. The UN and its member nations look forward to uplifting the world and its condition. Since all members agreed to envisage the goal of creating a world filled with peace with the help of the UN, the SDGs became a goal that would ultimately lead the way toward the same. Through the UN's resources and the member nations' international participation, sustainable development is aimed to be achieved through global transformation and tapping into the true human potential.²³

Since its establishment, the 2030 Agenda has not only taken the shape of one of the most significant goals in most nations but has also become significantly successful on several levels.

The UN promotes sustainability by encouraging member states, businesses, civil society, and individuals to work collectively to achieve these goals. The SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for

²³ Morenoff, Jerome (1967). *World Peace through Space Law*. Michie Company. Charlottesville: Virginia.pp 329.

addressing interconnected challenges and building a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

International Regulations for Peace in Space

Treaties and principles not only restrict nations and individuals from taking inappropriate actions against humanity with the use of outer space but also take measures to promote space research and exploration. An initiative for successful implementation is to be achieved through integrated methods and initiatives shared between all nations. The need to create initiatives and regulations for outer space safety is privy in consideration of humanity's access to the same. The UN and the General Assembly aim to achieve worldwide and world-beyond peace and harmony.²⁴

The primary agenda behind generating peace in space is to restrict any action that would use outer space and celestial bodies for violence and mass destruction. COPUOS has determined five international principles

²⁴ Hollingsworth, Gabrielle, “*Space Junk: Why the United Nations Must Step in to Save Access to Space*” *Santa Clara Law Review*, 53(1) (2013): 239- 266.

related to space activities. Space is beyond the reach or territory of any nation. Thus, it creates a conflict wherein nations must join hands and abide by regulations protecting outer space sanctity²⁵.

The treaties for peace in space are:

Outer Space Treaty: The Outer Space Treaty is one of the most significant treaties in the history of humanity due to the significant impact of the same in governing all the nations in their outer space-related activities, which adopted in 1967, is a foundational document governing the activities of states in outer space. Key principles include the prohibition of national appropriation, the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and the prevention of placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit. While the treaty doesn't specifically address military activities, its emphasis on peaceful use establishes a framework for preventing aggressive actions in space.

²⁵ Steer, C. & Hersch, M. (2020). *War and Peace in Outer Space: Law, Policy, and Ethics*. Oxford University Press.

Rescue agreement: The agreement was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 19, 1967, and entered into force on December 3, 1968. Various nations send their astronauts to space for missions beyond any civilian's imagination. The rescue agreement ensures the proper rescue and return of astronauts from space endeavors. The treaty or agreement also ensures the establishment of measures that would help return objects deployed in outer space. The Rescue Agreement is crucial for establishing protocols and procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of astronauts in space, as well as for the responsible management of space objects. It reflects the international community's commitment to cooperation in space activities and the recognition of the potential risks and challenges associated with space exploration.

Liability convention: It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on March 29, 1972, and entered into force on September 1, 1972. The liability convention is among the most important regulations imposed by the UN with the help of COPUOS. The liability convention holds all nations accountable and liable for the damages caused to and in outer space. During missions outside of Earth's orbit, damages that may be caused to the sanctity of space must be repaid by the nation liable

for the damages. It contributes to the peaceful and responsible use of outer space by establishing rules that encourage states to take measures to avoid damage and to compensate for damage when it occurs. In addition, it contributes along with other space treaties to the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework for the governance of activities in outer space, promoting international cooperation and the prevention of conflicts related to space exploration.

Registration convention: The registration convention is another significantly important treaty that holds great importance in terms of outer space objects. As nations conduct missions for outer space, the objects used for the missions must be registered. The registration of all objects sent into outer space must be conducted under the registration convention. This helps enhance transparency and reduces the risk of misinterpretation or suspicion about the nature of space activities.

Moon agreement: The moon agreement holds significant importance to the UN due to the high presence created by Earth on the moon and other celestial bodies, while is not widely ratified, it addresses potential sources of conflict related to the Moon's resources. The Moon Convention is responsible for managing, governing, and regulating all the activities and actions taken by states on celestial bodies such as the

moon.²⁶ It emphasizes the use of the Moon for peaceful purposes and international cooperation and restricts the Moon's use for exclusively national purposes.

Principles for peace in space

Declaration of Legal Principles: The declaration of principles includes the establishment and governance of all the principles attached to states' activities in outer space. The use and exploration of outer space conducted by the UN member nations are governed and regulated under the declaration of legal principles.

Broadcasting Principles: The broadcasting principles are concerned with all the artificial satellites used by states and launched into space. The broadcasting principles govern and regulate all the actions of Earth's artificial satellites used in international television broadcasting and so on.

Remote Sensing Principles: Various nations take part in remote sensing of the Earth with the help of artificial satellites and other

²⁶ Steer, C. & Hersch, M. (2020). *War and Peace in Outer Space* : Law, Policy, and Ethics. Oxford University Press.

equipment. Remote sensing takes place from outer space; thus, the equipment for remote sensing is to be used and launched into outer space. The principle governs the remote sensing activities of all the member states.²⁷

Nuclear Power Sources: One of the primary concerns of the UN and its member states in terms of outer space activities are all the WMS and nuclear power and weapons that may be used in outer space. Thus, the nuclear power source principle looks over all the uses of nuclear power in outer space and outer space activities.

Benefits Declaration: Among all the principles, the principle of benefits declaration is probably the most important one due to the consideration of the needs of developing countries. The main objective of the benefits declaration is the interest's actions and needs of all the member states of developing and developing countries in outer space activities and missions.²⁸

Non-appropriation of the celestial bodies and any region beyond Earth's orbit is included in the treaties. Along with the above mentioned,

²⁷ Lai, Albert (2021). *The Cold War, the Space Race, and the Law of Outer Space*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

²⁸ Ibid.

restricting the use of arms and ammunition, abusing the freedom granted for exploration of outer space, causing damage to outer space and celestial bodies, and creating a negative impact, harming, or interfering with activities in outer space are all a part of the treaties and principles.

The regulations also impose a measure that restricts the weapons of mass destruction being deployed in space. Deploying WMD in space is one of the first reasons behind the creation of international treaties for outer space²⁹ .

Conclusions and Recommendations

Several conclusions can be drawn in favor of the assessment of international treaties, the United Nations, the initiatives, regulations, and governance of the United Nations General Assembly, and so on. The research paper draws relevant data that concludes the achievement of the research paper's objectives. As per the above research paper, it

²⁹ Hollingsworth, Gabrielle, “*Space Junk: Why the United Nations Must Step in to Save Access to Space*” *Santa Clara Law Review*, 53(1) (2013): 239- 266.

can be concluded that the United Nations and all the initiatives the intergovernmental organization has taken thus far have focused on developing the world.

Since its establishment, the UN and its general assembly have published various measures that help achieve a sustainable and peaceful world and space. The initiatives of the UN have determined the seventeen sustainable developmental goals. The SDGs are focused on the 2030 Agenda of creating a sustainable world. The UN has also created governing actions and activities that determine the development of outer space activities and research. The UN has established measures that restrict the use of weapons of mass destruction in outer space and the world.

According to the increase in the number of space activities states, it is important to have international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, as well as the laws and policies, because it leads to many space challenges. For example, the appropriate legal regime that will support and inspire exploration, which is difficult but not impossible, by regulating new rules and principles of politics in the international community.

States might explore the need for new legal instruments or updates to existing ones to address contemporary issues, such as the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS) or specific guidelines for emerging technologies. Enhancing transparency and confidence-building measures among space-faring nations could be recommended to reduce the risk of misunderstandings and enhance cooperation. Moreover, States could be encouraged to reaffirm their commitment to existing space treaties and adhere to established principles of responsible behavior in outer space.

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مسؤولية الأمم المتحدة عن تنظيم استخدام الفضاء الخارجي

دراسة في ضوء المبادئ التوجيهية طويلة الأجل للجنة استخدام الفضاء الخارجي
في الأغراض السلمية

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الملخص

نظرًا لأهمية استكشاف ذلك الفضاء الخارجي، من المهم أن يكون هناك معاهدة دولية قانونية وتعريف شامل للفضاء الخارجي لتجنب النزاعات القانونية الدولية، مع المصلحة الإنسانية والمساواة بين الدول في استخدام الفضاء الخارجي واستكشافه دون أي تمييز.

أهمية البحث هو الحاجة إلى إنشاء نظام دولي للاستخدام السلمي للفضاء الخارجي لأنه لا يوجد إطار يحكم الاستخدام المستدام للفضاء الخارجي وكذلك الأغراض السلمية. كما أنها ستعطي أسبابًا مهمة لإنشاء نظام دولي، وسوف تزيد من الوعي بمسؤولية الدولة في هذا المجال، ومن خلال تحديد التحديات القانونية للفضاء الخارجي المستدام. بالإضافة إلى زيادة الوعي بمسؤوليات الدولة فيما يتعلق بحماية الفضاء الخارجي واستخدامه للأغراض السلمية. أخيرًا، ستقدم توصيات بشأن وجود قانون طويل الأجل لاستدامة الفضاء.

الكلمات الدالة:

مسؤولية الأمم المتحدة، استخدام الفضاء الخارجي، المبادئ التوجيهية، الاستدامة.