Ari Spivack
United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA): Welcome Paper
YUNMUN XXXVII

Hi Everyone!

My name is Ari Spivack, and I am truly honored and excited to serve as the chair of the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) this year! A little about me: I am in my second year at Yeshiva College, pursuing a double major in History and Mathematics. I was born in Passaic, NJ, but lived most of my life in Teaneck, NJ. I attended Yeshivat Frisch/The Frisch School for high school and then spent two years learning in Israel at Yeshivat Har Etzion (Gush).

This will be my sixth YUNMUN conference. I spent two years as a delegate in WHO, representing Sweden and Turkey, and two years in CTC, representing Italy and Russia. After missing out on two years of YUNMUN while in Israel, last year I served as the Administrative Assistant for UNEP. Outside of YUNMUN, I write for *The Commentator*, YU's premier student paper, and serve as managing editor of *Chronos*, YU's history journal. A fun fact about me is that this past summer I spent three weeks on an archaeological dig in Jerusalem through YU, which you can read more about here.

Now, with the personal details out of the way, let's get down to business. UNOOSA's primary goal is to ensure all countries can access the benefits of space and use them to promote development. To that end, it offers workshops and knowledge-sharing opportunities for all countries, along with initiatives that help them engage their space capabilities. UNOOSA also works to develop and realize the practical opportunities outer space provides, including disaster risk reduction and global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), such as GPS. Finally, it promotes transparency in space activities, fosters international cooperation to address challenges in space, and seeks the long-term sustainability of space activities for future generations.[1]

[1] https://www.unoosa.org/unoosa/en/aboutus/roles-responsibilities.html

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This year, UNOOSA will focus on two related, but distinct, issues: a) the regulation of private space companies and b) the need for space law and its enforcement. As the modern space race speeds ahead, it is becoming increasingly clear that its main participants are no longer just countries but private companies as well. We must decide how to properly integrate these new actors into the existing framework, including determining who is responsible for their activities. At the same time, the rules of space remain fragmented, operating on a confusing patchwork of treaties and agreements among various countries. It may be time to clarify the laws and enforcement mechanisms that govern this rapidly changing frontier.

Your first objective is to research your country and its positions regarding outer space, including its past participation in UNOOSA. Is your country party to any UN treaties concerning space or space agreements outside the UN framework? Your second objective is to prepare for thoughtful discussion and debate on our two topics and to work with your fellow delegates to draft resolutions that address them. Stay true to your country's stance, but don't be afraid to be creative!

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Remember, delegates, that I am your biggest fan throughout this entire experience! If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns (or just want to say hi), feel free to reach me at aspivack@mail.yu.edu. Looking forward to an incredible conference!

Sincerely,

Ari Spivack

Chair, United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs

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