



*Committee Guide for the
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)
Outer space Privatization*

Stockholm International School Model

United Nations

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A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that I invite and welcome you to Stockholm International School Model United Nations 2020. This year I have the privilege of leading SISMUN as our Secretary General and it is with honour that I present this year's conference.

It is a great honor to be this year's Secretary General, and welcome you to the Stockholm International School Model United Nations 2020.

This year's conference's theme is "Threats to Global Security" due to the fact that there are numerous challenges that our world is currently facing today. Global security entails many aspects that not only relate to the physical and emotional security of people, but also includes the security of our environment and institutions.

I am excited to see such a wide range of debates and hope that you will experience and gain a lot of memories, and experience from debating.

Yours faithfully,

Thabang Radebe
Secretary-General, SISMUN 2020

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD CHAIR OF SPECPOL

Dear Delegates,

As representatives to the Fourth committee, it is up to you to deal with issues of decolonization-related items, peace keeping, and special political missions. However, recently an issue SPECPOL had left behind has risen back to prominence. As commercial interest in space exploration has increased over the past years, privatisation of space is once again becoming relevant. Although action had been taken regarding the privatisation of space, the issue has outgrown these policies. With companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin coming closer and closer to possible exploitation and even colonization of space, the agenda for this year's SPECPOL has been set.

This growing field of interest can evolve into an issue that could have disastrous implications, both personal, and global. As delegates of the Fourth committee, you will collaborate and engage in fruitful discourse in order to come to a resolution which compromises for the good of all nations. Cooperation and innovative thinking will be required from you to solve this issue, and it is in the hands of you SISMUN delegates to reach a conclusive, effective resolution.

I look forward to chairing the Fourth committee and seeing the resolutions you build through debate and discussion, and meeting the distinguished delegates that SPECPOL has attracted this year!

Yours faithfully,

Nick Schenk

Head Chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, SISMUN 2020

INTRODUCTION

Outer-space privatisation is a recently appearing phenomenon concerning whether the public has the right to use space for commercial or personal purposes. This notion was first introduced openly to the public through the first commercial space flights, one executed by the private company, Space Adventures, which was in accordance with the Russian Space Agency. Between 2001-2009, they've had 7 space tourists that have done 8 spaceflights, with the price allegedly ranging from \$(US)200–250 million per trip. To date, they are the only commercial company to have sent private citizens to the ISS (International Space Station) for ten days or more!

NASA, the American space agency, announced that starting in 2020, they will aim to start allowing private astronauts to go on the ISS, with the use of SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft and Boeing's Starliner spacecraft for public astronauts, which is planned to be priced at 35,000 USD per day for one astronaut.

This emerging industry is materialising and commencing to slowly rise. They are not the only ones, with more and more companies and agencies suggesting they will engage too.

Previous to this phenomenon, the UN had enacted 5 international conventions concerning space law. Nonetheless, it was based on helping avoid Space races like the one that occurred between the USA and the Soviet Union, and does not address space commercialisation properly, leaving a grey area. However, this phenomenon is somewhat regulated, with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) along with its Legal, Scientific and Technical Subcommittees, and the United Nations Office Of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), presiding over these affairs.

Nonetheless, whether these committees are functional is debatable, as to the present moment, there has been no universal establishment of guidelines on the definition of airspace. The lack of this universal definition makes the laws surrounding this concept even more grey.

COMMITTEE DYNAMICS

As a delegate of SISMUN 2020, you will be responsible for representing a particular country in one of our committees. You are playing the role of that country's representative in a UN committee. You will do this by researching the country's views on the topic at hand and coming up with solutions complying to the view of the country. If you have not done any research you will have little to contribute within committee sessions. Therefore, it is recommended to take it upon yourself to prepare for the conference in order to make it more enjoyable for yourself and others in your committee. During the conference, it is important that you respect and listen to your fellow delegates and Chairs.

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

SPECPOL, also known as the Fourth Committee, was founded in 1993. It is the combination of the decolonization committee (the original 4th committee) and the special political committee. It was established so that it could handle situations that DISEC couldn't, like decolonization and other international security concerns. Prior to the success in addressing the Palestine Question, SPECPOL was given broader topics to work with.

Many UNSC affairs are often assessed by SPECPOL in advance. This is not only for the broader approaches it has to international security but also it gives the United Nations a chance to be heard before it is passed on to other UN organs.

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

The SPECPOL committee meets up every year around mid September to early November. It has brief meeting during spring to adopt resolutions and other decisions. Opposed to other UN committees, it does not start with a general debate. Another thing is that the committee allows for petitioners to address decolonization issues. Finally, about 30-35 draft resolutions and draft decisions are adopted by the committee.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

As mentioned before, it has been society's will for many years to use space for commercial and personal uses. Outer-space privatization was initially intended to avoid another space races like the Cold War, yet has become a huge industry of possible space travel. There are other issues that we must consider when it comes to outer-space privatization - like the cost of the project.

Most modern treaties were not prepared for the growing demand of outer space privatization, centralising on tourism as a reason to travel through outer space. At the moment, there are rising private companies that are taking over the idea of outer-space privatization, mainly: Blue Origin, SpaceX, Virgin Galactic, Boinge, The spaceship company, and many more.

These companies are developing their aircrafts to one day make space tourism a reality, causing a new space race in the modern world. There are also smaller nations that are joining this race, such as: New Zealand, Singapore, and Luxembourg. Though their projects aren't as ambitious as the government sanctioned organizations like NASA, from modern-day superpowers. The main countries that have been presently involved in space exploration are the US, China, Japan, India, Canada and Russia.

A good positive aspect that can be observed in the idea of outer-space privatization is that private sectors are more likely to use it to its full potential, meaning that it can accomplish the needs of the government with more efficiency. In other words, through outer space privatization, private spacecraft companies can benefit science with technology development faster and more efficiently than companies like NASA.

RELEVANT UN ACTIONS

As stated before, there are 5 major official documents that form the foundation of Space Law, introduced over a span of 12 years, between 1967 and 1979. Firstly, the "Outer Space Treaty" was created, which was based on principles in regards to the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. This treaty restricts states from positioning weapons of mass destruction in Earth orbit, installing them on the Moon or any other celestial body, or otherwise stationing them in outer space. Secondly, the "Rescue Agreement", which agrees that launch states will take possible steps regarding the rescue of astronauts, the return of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space, and that other states will assist the launch state in this. Then, the third agreement, the "Liability Convention", concerns international liability for damage caused by space objects. The fourth agreement is called the "Registration Convention", which is a convention on registration of objects launched into outer space.

However, though they carry importance to the overall subject, they do not explicitly address the commercialisation and privatisation of space, but only set standards and rules nation states and the citizens within must follow, as, at the time, all space activity was state-organized. Moreover, there are also principles set by the UN which only reinforce the ideas that are laid

out by the treaties, adding that the needs of less developed countries need to be taken into account when discussing benefits and interests in space. At the present moment, there is no legislation that involves this topic in any direct way.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

These are areas of the topic that are encouraged to be addressed in any working paper or resolution that the dais approves to be discussed. While you do not have to research and write about all of these questions in extreme depth, you should address them in your writing and keep them in mind throughout the research process.

1. How will treaties on the privatization of space be enforced now that there is more momentum in the industry ?
2. How will the UN keep pace with the increasingly growing space? industry in terms of legislation, and the potential problems that could be provoked; environmental, technological and ethical?

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

1. Ethics involving Outer- Space Privatization
2. International space laws.
3. Private Spaceflight Companies
4. The 'new' Space Race
5. Outer space treaties
6. UNOOSA

MUN TERMINOLOGY

Delegate: A person representing a particular country during committee sessions.

Best Delegate: An award for delegates that participated particularly well.

Chair: A person or persons leading committee sessions.

Dais: A selection of above average talented individuals that lead committee sessions.

Clause: A single solution of the greater solution (resolution) to the topic.

Resolution: A collection of clauses that create a solution for the topic.

Signatory: A delegate that supports another delegate's clause and wants it discussed.

Placard: A rectangular piece of paper with a country's name.

Opening Speech: An opportunity for delegates to present their country's ideas.

Quorum: The number of votes needed to pass a clause or resolution - $\frac{2}{3}$ votes for.

Decorum: The Latin word for "grace". If a chair says "decorum", they want the delegates to be quiet.

Amendment: a change or addition designed to improve the clause passed

PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY

The following components of SISMUN are in the order of which they will play out.

1. Roll Call - Time to take attendance
 - a. At the beginning of each session your chairs will conduct a roll call. During roll call each delegate's name will be called and you are expected to reply with either "Present" or "Present and voting".
2. Opening Speeches - Time to share views and ideas
 - a. The delegation leader of each country will hold a maximum of one minute long speech introduce your country's position on the topic at hand.
3. Moderated Caucus I (Formal Debate) - Time to speak under official time
 - a. During a moderated caucus delegates that wish to speak on a topic may do so

- by raising their placards when the chair asks for speakers.
- b. Delegates that are called on can speak for up to 60 seconds. There will be two questions of 30 seconds and two answers of 30 seconds per speaker.
 - c. There will be two moderated caucuses during the conference.
 - d. In Moderated Caucus (I) the points brought up during the opening speeches or other points regarding solutions to the topic will be discussed.
4. Unmoderated Caucus (Informal Debate) - Time to speak freely
 - a. During unmoderated caucus delegates will talk to other delegates and write clauses (solutions) for the topic.
 - b. Each clause requires one signatory (supporter) to be acknowledged.
 - c. When a clause is finished the delegates will send the clause to the Dais to be edited and for later projection onto the board. Only clauses sent during unmoderated caucus will be discussed during the final moderated caucus.
 5. Moderated Caucus II (Formal Debate)
 - a. In Moderated Caucus (II) clauses will be presented, discussed and voted upon.
 - b. When clauses are presented, delegates can choose to speak for or against a clause.
 - c. When the committee moves into voting procedure, delegates vote on the clause being discussed.
 - d. During voting procedure delegates can do one of the following actions:
 - i. Vote for: The delegation agrees with the clause or resolution.
 - ii. Vote against: The delegation disagrees with the clause or resolution.
 - iii. Abstain from voting: The delegation neither agrees nor disagrees with the clause or resolution.
 6. Voting Procedure - Time to vote on the proposed resolutions
 - a. When the committee moves into voting procedure, delegates vote on the resolution as a whole after having voted for each individual clause.
 - b. During voting procedure delegates can do one of the following actions:
 - i. Vote for: The delegation agrees with the clause or resolution.
 - ii. Vote against: The delegation disagrees with the clause or resolution.
 - iii. Abstain from voting: The delegation neither agrees nor disagrees with the clause or resolution.

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