UNOOSA
United Nations Office
for Outer Space Affairs

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**Topic:** Preventing the Emergence of a New Space Race and Its Potential Militarization Among Major Spacefaring Nations
**committee :** UNOOSA
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**position :** Chair

1. ## Introduction

Outer space has recently become one of the most scientifically significant areas in the modern world. What was considered an unexplored frontier is becoming an essential part of international relations, with regions increasingly investing in space exploration and research. All of these developments have played a part in expanding humanities understanding of the vacuum surrounding them. The competition between nations continues to evolve and escalate as nations try to establish technological superiority.

## 2. General background

The origins of modern space competition trace back all the way to the cold war, when the United States and the Soviet Union, got caught in a rivalry that would later become known as the space race. After the soviet union launched their sputnik 1 satellite in 1957, both the nations began competing against each other in developing space technology, some of the following milestones are a result of the ‘space race’; first human space flight, first crewed lunar landing, first animal in space (laika the dog), first woman in space, first space station , and many more achievements. Even though this competition resulted in a lot of technological improvements, it also caused tension between the two major countries involved to increase. Recognizing the need to prevent outer space from becoming an additionary area of international confrontation the international community established the 1967 on principles governing the activities of states in the use and exploration of outer space.

Recently, space exploration has changed completely, spacefaring nations have continued to expand their space programs and increase all sorts of support, objectives that are focused on now vary from developing telescope technology to exploring mars and creating lunar bases. One of the biggest concerns that comes with the re emergence of a new space race is the increasing relationship between space related technology, international stability, and security. Satellite are becoming an essential part of everyday life, wireless communication is completely reliant on satellites and space tech, navigation and weather forecasting also completely rely on satellites . as countries continue to expand their space development programs, concerns around stability become increasingly relevant

## 3. Historical background

The origins of the space race can be traced back to the cold war, when the united states and the soviet union developed a rivalry in the field of space research. When the soviet union launched sputnik 1 in 1957, the beginning of the space age and competition between the two countries. This rivalry resulted in the USA landing the first humans on the moon during the apollo 11 mission in 1969.

As space activities kept increasing, the possibility of outer space becoming an extension to military rivalries became real. The united nations developed frameworks to encourage and promote peaceful exploration. The 1967 outer space treaty prohibited the placement of nuclear weapons in the earths orbit, also establishing that the earths orbit was international territory, unable to be claimed by any nation.

## 4. issue

a  new space race could grow competition between  between major spacefaring nations. As countries compete to develop more advanced rockets and weapons, this risks that outer space becomes an extension of geopolitical competition, unlike the original space race . such competition could potentially cause an acceleration in the development of nuclear weaponry.

## 5.  Key spacefaring nations and their roles

**United states:** one of the leading nations, through NASA's artemis programme which aims to expand human human exploration of the lunar surface, as well as SPACE X's starship.

**China:** has an independent human spaceflight programme :aswell as the tiangong space station

**Russia:** has a history of space exploration and remains an important part of preventing another space race

**India:** has a spacefaring programme called chandrayaan

**Japan:** plays a big role in satellite technology development and scientific research

**European union:** contributes to satellite navigation and scientific research

**United arab emirates:** is beginning to develop spacefaring programs like the 'hope' mars mission

## 6. Key terms

Space faring : a country capable of independently exploring outer space

Space race: competition between countries to become superior in space exploration

Apollo 11: the first mission to successfully land humans on the lunar surface

Sputnik 1: the first human made satellite to be launched into earths orbit

## 7. Sources


**nasa.gov**

**unoosa.org**

https://science.nasa.gov/moon/missions/