



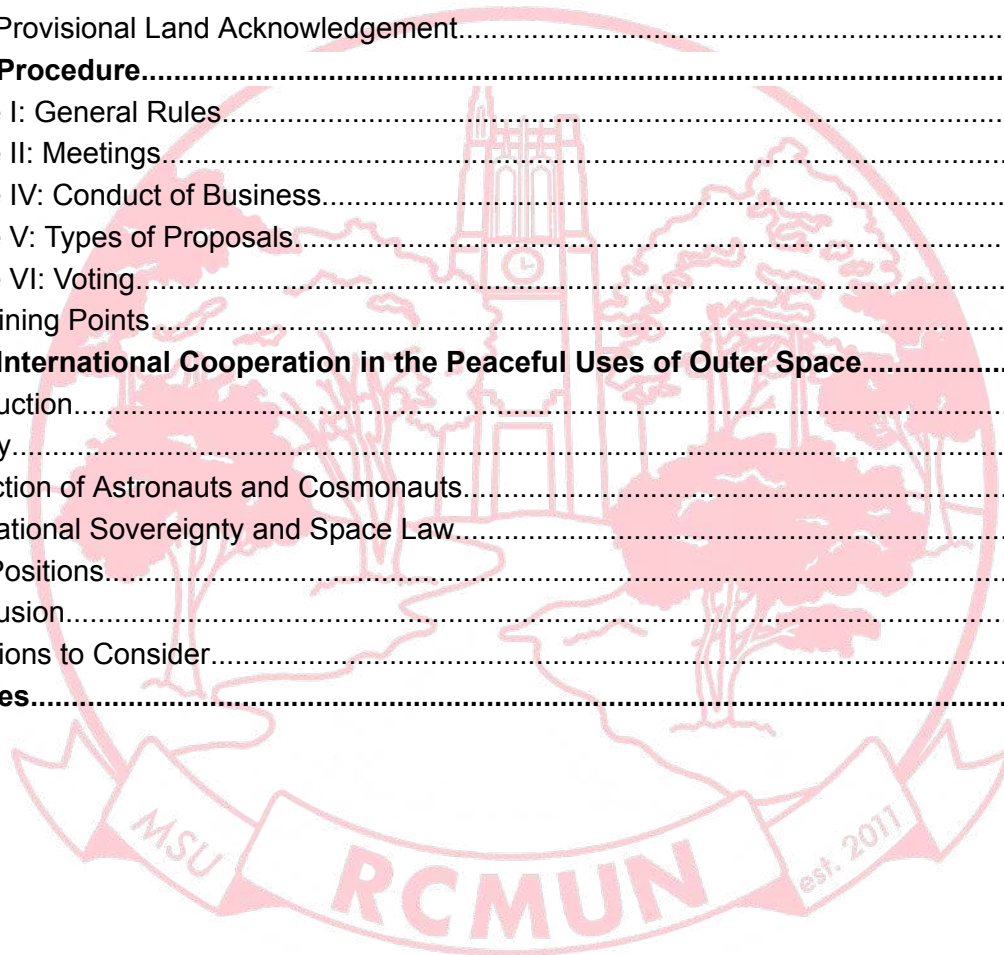
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

RCMUN XIII
FEBRUARY 3, 2024



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RCMUN NOTICES

Committee Content Warning

While RCMUN values the discussion and awareness of most topics and a delegate's obligation to accurately represent their assigned role, all participants who engage in any bigoted, racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist, fatphobic, xenophobic, or other such comments or sentiments will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of RCMUN's Secretariat. Additionally, in all things, RCMUN pledges its Secretariat and staff to maintain approachability and inclusivity; if any participant has any questions, comments, or concerns they are encouraged to contact RCMUN's Secretariat or, in the case of delegates, its staff. If you have questions or concerns regarding this, please reach out to your committee's senior staff before conference weekend.

Red Cedar University Model United Nations (RCMUN) is committed to fostering a safe and secure environment for all delegates, staff, and advisors. In this, RCMUN operates with a zero-tolerance policy concerning any and all instances of harassment and discrimination. Further, RCMUN is committed to promoting the mental health of its participants and requires all participants to act with compassion, grace, and understanding. RCMUN encourages participants to step out of their committee room and/or speak with a trusted individual if they are feeling overwhelmed or are otherwise uncomfortable.

All participants should be aware that RCMUN's Secretariat and staff are designated mandatory reporters with MSU's Office of Institutional Equity while operating within their roles before and during the conference.

RCMUN Statement on Mental Health

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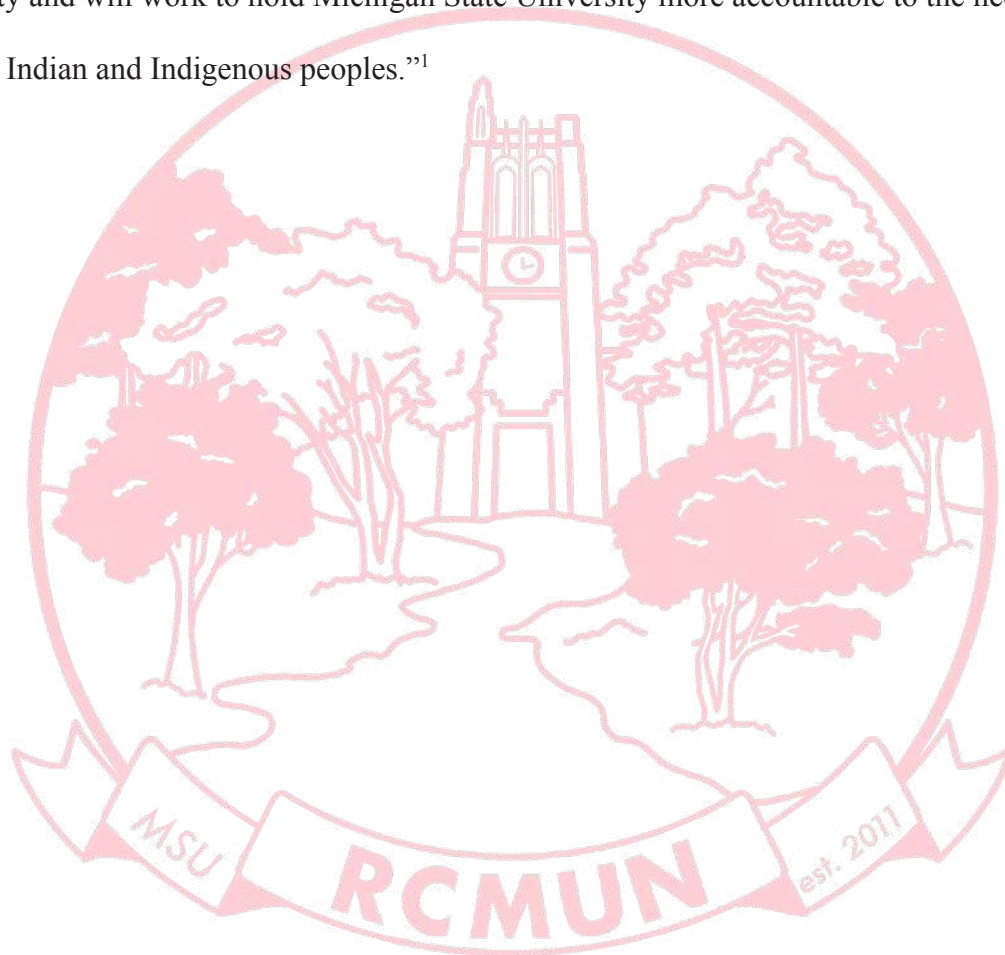
Moreover, RCMUN recognizes that some of its committees may include references to or discussions of sensitive topics. While RCMU values the discussion and awareness of these topics and a delegate's obligation to accurately represent their assigned role, all participants who engage in any bigoted, racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist, or other such comments or sentiments will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of RCMUN's Secretariat. Additionally, in all things, RCMUN pledges its Secretariat and staff to maintain approachability and inclusivity; if any participant has any questions, comments, or concerns they are encouraged to contact RCMUN's Secretariat or, in the case of delegates, its staff.

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MSU Provisional Land Acknowledgement

“We collectively acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe,

Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan’s twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Michigan State University more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.”¹



¹ “Land Acknowledgement,” American Indian and Indigenous Studies, accessed December 5, 2021, <https://aiis.msu.edu/land/>.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article I: General Rules

1. Delegates are expected to adhere to all regular RCMUN XII rules and standards of decorum.
2. In the event of a dispute over the Rules of Procedure, either those of RCMUN generally or COMMITTEE NAME, the RCMUN Secretariat will be the ultimate authority of appeal.

Article II: Meetings

1. All of COMMITTEE'S NAME meetings shall be attended by all specified members of the committee, unless otherwise authorized by the RCMUN Secretariat.
2. Unless otherwise indicated by the RCMUN Secretariat or COMMITTEE'S NAME staff, all meetings of the committee will be held in the specified COMMITTEE'S NAME room as designated by RCMUN.

Article III: Agenda

1. Items for debate may be pulled from the background guide, but are not limited to what is explicitly mentioned. COMMITTEE'S NAME staff would like to see well-rounded and well-researched delegates bring new and relevant topics to the table.
2. Any Committee member may make a motion to restrict debate to one topic. If this motion passes, debate shall be limited to the topic specified until such time as another motion is made to either change the topic under consideration or return to general debate.

3. The Agenda is to be set at the beginning of committee, formal debate on committee topics may not begin until the Agenda has been set.
4. A Speaker's List may be opened at any time when motions are being entertained. Additionally, a delegate may request to be added to the Speaker's List at any time. If the Chair is not actively calling for speakers to be added, a delegate may send a note to the dias.

Article IV: Conduct of Business

1. COMMITTEE'S NAME proceedings shall be conducted in the form of a permanent Moderated Caucus until such a time that a committee member makes a motion to change this.

Article V: Types of Proposals

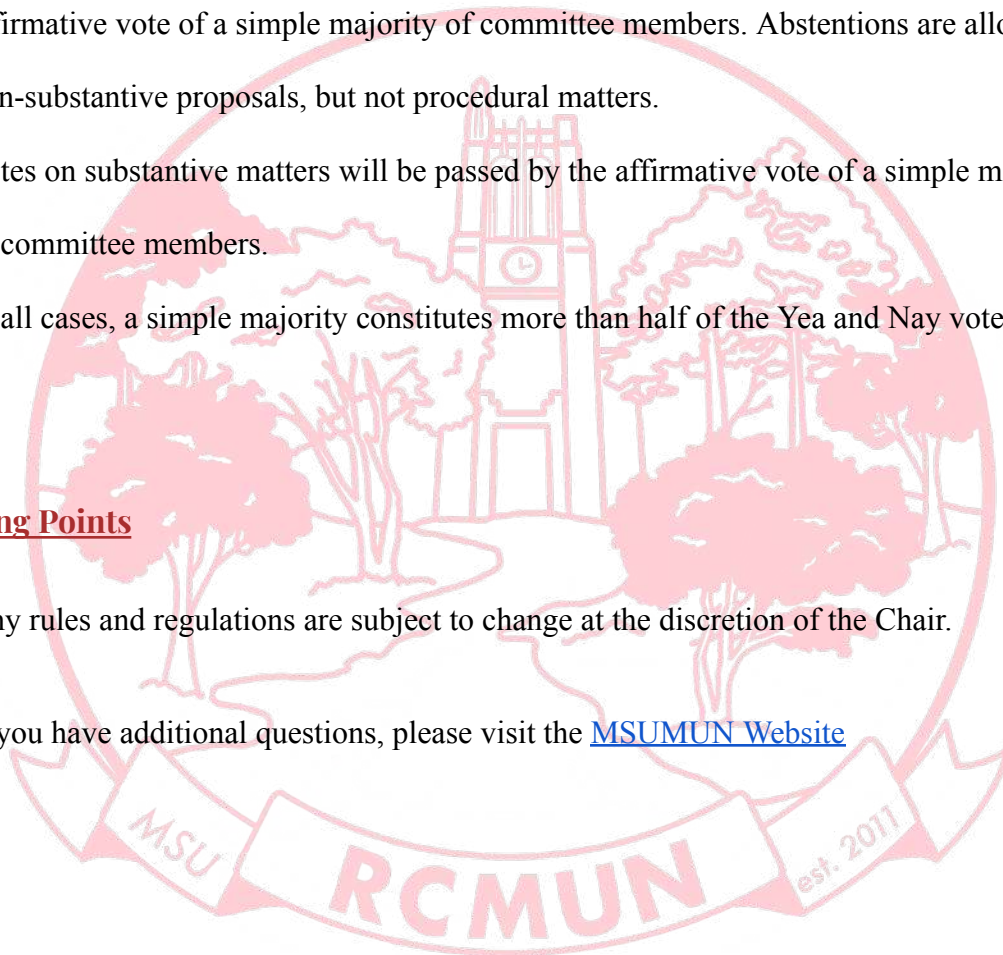
1. Working Papers: When initially proposing solutions, delegates must first draft and present working papers to the committee. These documents will not be subject to a vote by committee, but are merely a presentation of ideas. These will then be adapted into resolutions, as described below.
2. Resolutions: A resolution requires only one sponsor, though it may have more. The amount of required signatories is up to the discretion of the Chair. A committee member need only move to introduce a resolution in order for it to be considered by the entire committee.

Article VI: Voting

1. Votes may be entered as Yeas, Nays, or Abstentions.
2. Any delegate who designates themselves as “Present and Voting” during roll call may not abstain on any matter.
3. Votes on non-substantive proposals or procedural matters will be passed by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of committee members. Abstentions are allowed on non-substantive proposals, but not procedural matters.
4. Votes on substantive matters will be passed by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of committee members.
5. In all cases, a simple majority constitutes more than half of the Yea and Nay votes.

Remaining Points

1. Any rules and regulations are subject to change at the discretion of the Chair.
2. If you have additional questions, please visit the [MSUMUN Website](#)



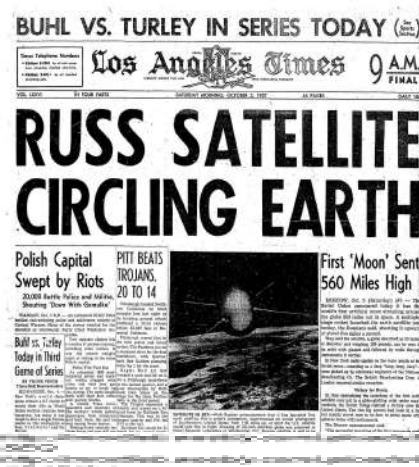
TOPIC A: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Introduction

Following World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union (USSR) became immersed in a global battle between democracy and communism. The Space Race is a critical aspect of this ongoing feud, with each nation competing with each other to become the most technologically advanced nation. The countries have begun to use space technology as a method to compete for a political and military advantage between other countries in the international community. The concept of space exploration has attracted many nations to pursue exploration, including members of the European Union, Japan, China, and India.

History

On October 4, 1957, Sputnik 1, the first artificial Earth satellite, was launched into orbit



by the Soviet Union. Just 4 years later, on April 12, 1961, Lieutenant Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth in Vostok 1, with a flight lasting 108 minutes at an altitude of 202 miles.

On the other side of the world, the first United States satellite went into orbit on January 31, 1958, followed by the creation of

the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

(NASA) later that year. One month after Lieutenant Gagarin, Alan Shepard became the first

American in space, launched by Mercury Freedom 7 for a 15-minute suborbital flight.²

Following this success, President John F. Kennedy addressed Congress and made it a national ambition to “[land] a man on the moon and [return] him safely within a decade.”³

In 1961, the European Space Research Preparatory Commission (COPERS) established a scientific program, an 8-year budget, and an administrative structure for the European Space Research Organization (ESRO). The European nations then established a second agency, the European Launch Development Organization (ELDO), with the task of developing a launch system while ESRO was tasked with developing a spacecraft.⁴

The United Nations General Assembly established the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) in 1959 in order to “govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security, and development.”⁵ Its objective is to review international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, study space-related activities that could be undertaken by the United Nations, encourage space research programs, and address legal problems that arise from the exploration of outer space. Currently in its early stages, this body developed two subcommittees, one dealing with legal matters and the other with technical

² “Timeline: 50 Years of Spaceflight.” 2012. Space.com.

<https://www.space.com/4422-timeline-50-years-spaceflight.html>.

³ “A Brief History of Space Exploration.” n.d. The Aerospace Corporation. Accessed October 2, 2023.
<http://www.aerospace.org/education/stem-outreach/space-primer/a-brief-history-of-space-exploration/>.

⁴ “ESA - Fifty years since first ELDO launch.” n.d. European Space Agency. Accessed October 2, 2023.
http://www.esa.int/About_Us/Welcome_to_ESA/ESA_history/Fifty_years_since_first_ELDO_launch.

⁵ “COPUOS.” n.d. UNOOSA. Accessed October 2, 2023.
<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/index.html>.

has taken notable action against space debris. The primary issue that will arise from the increased presence of space debris in the atmosphere is how to reduce it in order to limit the risk it poses to Earth and other celestial bodies.

International Sovereignty and Space Law

The issue of international sovereignty is becoming prevalent when discussing space exploration. This term refers to “the body of international and national laws and customs that govern human activities in outer space.”⁸ Prior to the launching of Sputnik, the legal status of space was undecided, but it was assumed that the laws that governed airspace would be extended up to the Earth’s orbit. The principle of the freedom of space was formalized in United Nations Resolution 1721 (XVI), which states “outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States in conformity with international law and are not subject to national appropriation.”⁹ By extension, this means that no state is permitted to establish sovereign claims over any area of outer space, however no action has been taken yet by any nations regarding territorial claims to outer space.¹⁰

Bloc Positions

As the major players in the space race, space technology within the United States and the USSR is rapidly developing and an exciting prospect. The possibility of these nations eventually

⁸ “Our Work Space Law.” n.d. UNOOSA. Accessed October 2, 2023.

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/index.html>.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Leib, Karl. 2015. “State Sovereignty in Space: Current Models and Possible Futures.” *The International Journal of Space Politics & Policy* 13, no. 1 (March): 1-24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14777622.2015.1015112>.

working together on this is slim but not impossible, as Premier Khrushchev recently wrote a letter to President Kennedy raising the question of cooperation at a modest level. However, for the time being, both nations are still competing against one another. Western European nations have developed a number of bodies to evaluate European status in space exploration. As of right now, the programs and funding have been allocated, but no notable progress on the development of technology has been made.

African nations are beginning to declare independence from colonial rule, with nations like Burundi, Rwanda, Algeria, and Uganda becoming independent just months ago. Because of this, the development of technology needed to begin space exploration is unfeasible at this time. However these countries are more than capable of gaining the necessary technology to create a space program. These countries should still be heavily involved in this discussion as the rules and regulations decided now will impact them in the future.

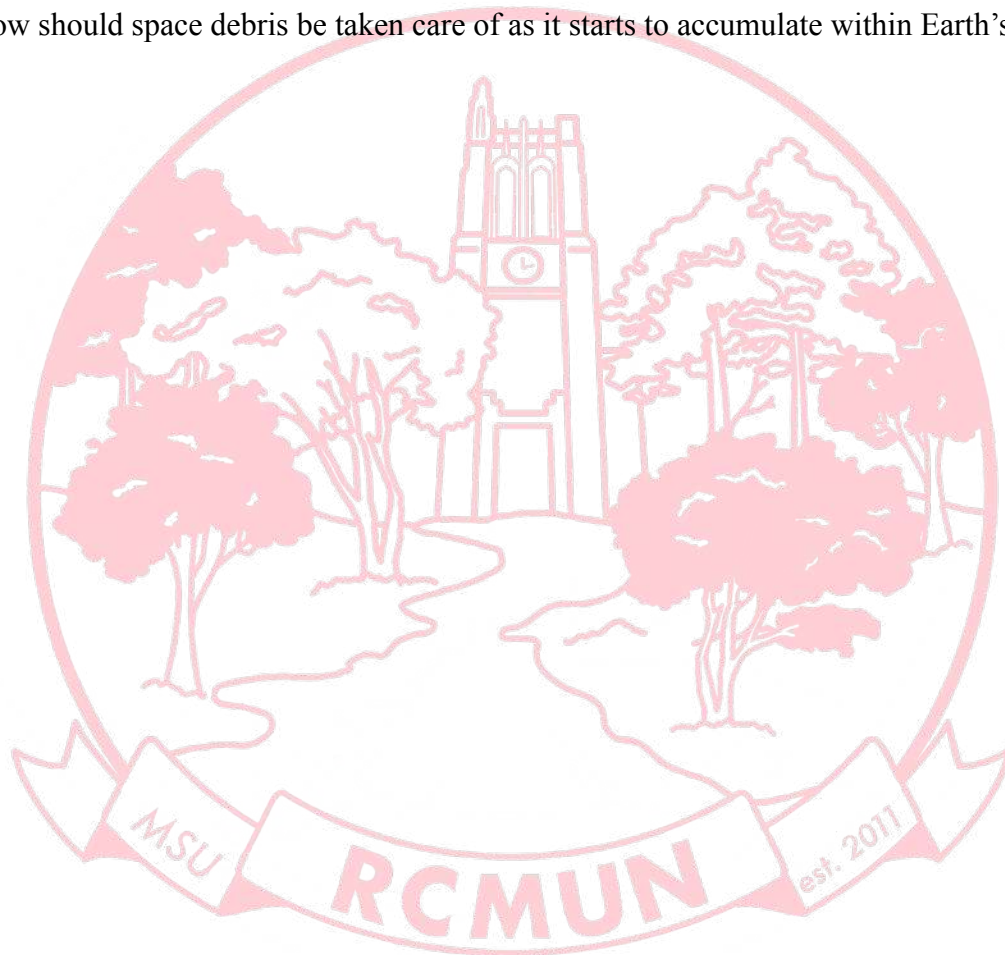
Many Asian nations, notably China, India, and Japan, are beginning to show interest in the development of space programs. Earlier this year, Pakistan launched sounding rockets in collaboration with the United States, making them the tenth country to adventure into space. Just like the African nations, they should still participate in the discussion on space usage.

Conclusion

Although space travel is something that has only recently come about, many issues have already started. It is extremely critical for this committee to take action on these problems before they escalate. Issues pertaining to international security, specifically those regarding space law, should be made a priority. Delegates should consider the risks of developing military technology and weaponry in outer space in order to protect the well-being of all citizens.

Questions to Consider

- Do nations have a right to territory within outer space?
- Are all nations entitled to develop a program for space exploration?
- Should action be taken against government programs that intend to use outer space for the development of military technology?
- How should space debris be taken care of as it starts to accumulate within Earth's orbit?



REFERENCES

