



Press Corps/Russia Today

Press Corps

Reporters: Nathaniel Lascano and Moses Roberts

Topic: SPECPOL/ International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Development in space, if it continues on its current path, could take a deadly turn for the worse in the near future. “Space junk” or debris left from space launches and defunct satellites, could make space travel even more deadly. Also, the looming risk of a war in space could threaten us all. This issue has recently become very urgent, sparking a flurry of global activity, with multiple governments and the UN taking action.

Space debris has been an issue in the corner of the world’s eyes for decades. When a space craft is launched, and the stages run out of fuel, there isn’t much you can do to get it out of space. The same goes for satellites. The UN has proposed several treaties to prohibit leaving debris in space, but it was too illogical. However, Switzerland has started to develop technology to eradicate “space junk.” Additionally, magnets have been tested to attract the debris for de-orbiting.

Also, the International Space Station (ISS) is getting very old and is deteriorating. It would not be cost effective to renovate it and building onto it has been deemed unsafe. However, the UN has proposed building a new ISS, with several countries contributing parts. Also, this one

will use “eco-friendly” spacecraft. Its purpose will be to research, and possibly help clean debris.

At the Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) conference several delegates expressed their opinions.

The delegate from China agreed that they had no plans to weaponize space, using it for research and development only. They also plan to ask the United States of America (USA) for funding.

The French delegate said that they are developing re-useable space ships that can be used multiple times, saving even the boosters used for takeoff. “Every country has an equal right to space,” they said. They are also a strong backer of the plan to modernize the ISS.

Egypt is another country with a fledgling space program, receiving funding from China. They do not know for sure, but they do not think that their government has any plans to launch weaponized satellites, preferring to use it for research only.

When asked if Japan had a space program, the delegate responded that “Yes, you can consider Japan a space superpower.” The Japanese ambassador also said that they had launched weaponized satellites, and that “We have considered using Mars, the Moon and Venus for war.” Also, they have supposedly taken military offensive action in space. “We have military surveillance satellites watching you as we speak.”

With the help of the UN and other global organizations, these issues could soon be virtually nonexistent. Space, soon, could be accessible to all, not just professionally trained astronauts.