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Norms and Standards for Safe and Responsible Behaviour in Space (3)

Author: Ms. Sahba El-Shawa

Jordan Space Research Initiative (JSRI), Jordan, sahba.elshawa@spacegeneration.org

Ms. Giuliana Rotola

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy, giuliana.rotola@spacegeneration.org

Mr. AJ Link

Jus Ad Astra, United States, aj.link@spacegeneration.org

SPACE AS A ZONE OF PEACE: ENVISIONING A RESOLUTION FOR THE DEMILITARIZATION
OF OUTER SPACE**Abstract**

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which forms the basis of international space law, prohibits the placement of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in space and limits the use of the Moon and other celestial bodies to peaceful purposes. Despite these provisions, the treaty does not prohibit the placement of conventional weapons in orbit, and the potential for space to become weaponized remains a significant concern. Recent advancements in space technology and the increasing capabilities of various nations to operate in space have brought the issue to the forefront of international discussions. The development of anti-satellite weapons, the militarization of space infrastructure, and the potential deployment of weaponized platforms in orbit are developments that necessitate a reevaluation of existing treaties and the formulation of new agreements to ensure space remains a zone of peace. Acknowledging that the ideal solution—a new comprehensive treaty—presents significant diplomatic and practical challenges, this project adopts a pragmatic approach. It aims to lay the groundwork for such an ambitious goal through incremental steps, beginning, as an example, with developing a draft resolution. This initial step is envisioned as a catalyst for international dialogue and cooperation, setting the stage for more extensive agreements in the future. By focusing on achievable milestones, such as consensus-building activities, confidence-building measures, and the establishment of a common understanding of the importance of space for humanity's collective future, this project seeks to navigate the complex political and technical terrain towards the ultimate objective of a demilitarized outer space.