



Background Paper

Committee: UNOOSA

Topic A: International policy on the future colonization of Mars & the Moon.

Chairs: Regina Cardosa and Zack

The idea of colonizing Mars and the Moon has been pondered by humans since they discovered the solar system. Nowadays, there is a chance that this will become possible, thanks to the technology we have developed. This topic emphasizes Mars and the Moon, since they are the satellites closest to Earth. Also there is a better chance of colonizing them as opposed to other satellites. Many scientists are worried that our Earth will run out of resources, and by the time we realize it, it will be too late. So they say the sooner we start to colonize other planets, the better.

The Moon is a treasure that has many interesting mysteries that we can explore. From there we can get a better comprehension of how both the solar system and our planet work. NASA has just discovered that they are some bizarre metals and water on the moon, which gives us a promising future in exploring there. Darby Dyar, an astronomist at Mount Holyoke College, states that the Moon is to people today what the New World was to Europeans 600 years ago. This is true, since we are trying to colonize it, just as we did with the new territories centuries ago.

Some scientists see Mars as a path to find evidence of how past life functioned. Ellen Stofan, the former chief scientist of NASA, and current head of the National Air and Space Museum, says that we will find evidence of past life on Mars in as little as a decade. Others go beyond that, they see Mars as humans' next home. In the future, Earth will be uninhabitable due to global nuclear wars, climate change, and other important factors. What some scientists are doing to get prepared to call Mars our "new home," include simulations of how human life will exist there. They are doing this by practicing living in a Hawaiian volcano. They are also building bigger and better spaceships. Some countries that are putting effort into researching possibilities are: China, United States of America, and Luxembourg.

The President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, gave NASA a new mission to focus on; the exploration of Mars and the Moon, and finally sending humans to explore new territories instead of robots. NASA sent a robot to explore Mars, named the Mars "Curiosity Rover," which discovered some interesting information that could help the future colonization of Mars. One of the most important discoveries they found is that it is suitable for life. They identified sulfur, oxygen, phosphorus, and nitrogen, the essential ingredients for life. Elon Musk, who founded SpaceX, and as

the name implies, it is focused on exploring space. One of its biggest missions is the colonization of the Moon and Mars. Elon Musk is frustrated that NASA is not working hard enough to take humans to Mars, and that this is depriving humanity of a second chance. This is a long term project, which is believed will take 40 to 100 years to establish a colony on Mars, Scientists see this as a way to protect our future. If we want to get to Mars, first we will have to send humans to the Moon again, and create a “pit stop and a gas station” on the Moon to be able to get to Mars. There is an estimate which predicts that in around 2030, humans will be able to land on Mars.

Based on the research, the committee concludes that the idea of colonizing outer space is expensive and difficult, but no one said it was impossible, and some countries are willing to take this risk. It is important to start discussing the future of humanity, and get prepared to go to the next step in outer space. Living in Space will be the only chance if humanity is not able to save Earth from climate change, and wars will be our plan B. If we are willing to send people to the Moon and Mars to colonize those satellites, then the colonies must be self-reliant and sufficient. Obviously, humankind will have to adapt to this new type of existence, with lower gravity and living standards.

Citations

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