

Committee Guide

COPUOS 2024

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Navigating a New Age

***Refining
International
Cooperation in the
Use of Outer Space***



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1. Personal Introduction

1.1. Louis Sachse

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the OLMUN 2024. My name is Louis, I am 21 years old and I am from Oldenburg.

This is my third time participating as a Chair at OLMUN. I first participated in OLMUN in 2019 as a Tech-Staff and IC Member.

For me, OLMUN is all about gaining new experiences, getting to know other people from around the world, and having fun of course. I am looking forward to many interesting debates.

Besides OLMUN, I volunteer at our local fire department. On weekends, I can be found as a Light-Technician in nightclubs in Oldenburg. I wish you all the best in your preparation for the conference.

See you in June.

Louis Sachse

1.2. Maia Aichele

Hey,

My name is Maja and I'm 18 years old. I'm currently attending 12th grade at the Käthe-Kollwitz-Schule Hannover (Germany).

This year will be my first time to chair a committee and I'm already really excited. In previous years I've been attending MUN conferences as a delegate twice here in Oldenburg and twice in Berlin.

I think my greatest MUN experience so far was representing the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in last year's UNESCO. In my free time I ride horses, listen to music, read books or hang out with my friends.

I'm thrilled to meet all of you in June and I hope for fruitful and fun debates!

2 How to Prepare for the Conference

1.3. Mike van Elp

Dearest delegates,

I am incredibly happy for your participation in this year's OLMUN conference, and of course for joining our wonderful committee. I am 18 years old, and currently live near Assen, the Netherlands. I am in my last year of high school, but will be finished at the time of conference. This will be my second time participating in OLMUN, whereas the first time as Chair. I do have much experience in debating and chairing in both MUN and MEP. Between the stressful, and often late, hours of this last year of school, I quite enjoy music, both the listening as the performing part, and go party on the weekends.

I wish you the most fun time during OLMUN, as for me it was a time to never forget. So, make fun memories, practice good debate and - most importantly- have fun! See you all in June!

Mike van Elp

2. How to Prepare for the Conference

In preparation for this year's conference, you should prepare both a Draft Resolution and a Policy Statement that summarize your delegation's opinion on the topic.

Each Draft Resolution should be **at least one page long** and concentrate on the Operative Clauses. Policy Statements should be more concise and generally should not exceed 250 words.

You will find more information on how such documents are written and structured in the **OLMUN Handbook** which is available for you to look at and download in the download sections of OLMUN's official website (olmun.org). To be able to support you in your preparations for this year's conference, we encourage you to send us your Policy Statement by the 22nd of May. We will then look through all of your ideas and give you feedback and ideas that you can incorporate in your final stages of conference preparation.

Also, we would love to get to know you a little better in order to plan our committee sessions: Please let us know about your prior MUN-experiences, some of the things that you are looking forward to the most for this year's conference as well as things that might still worry you. You can just include those things in your mail when sending in your Policy Statements and Draft Resolutions. While the deadline is not mandatory, we will definitely keep an eye on which delegates decide to hand in their documents either too late or not at all. The last date to send in your documents is the Monday before OLMUN on the 3rd of June.



3. About the COPUOS

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was set up by the General Assembly in 1959 to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security and development.

The Committee was tasked with reviewing international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space, studying space-related activities that could be undertaken by the United Nations, encouraging space research programs, and studying legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space.

The COPUOS was instrumental in the creation of the five treaties and five principles of outer space. It discusses international cooperation in space exploration and the use of space technology applications with the purpose of meeting global development goals every year.

Due to rapid advances in space technology, the space agenda is constantly evolving. The Committee therefore provides a unique global platform to monitor and discuss these developments.

4. About the Topic

4.1. Past Action by the COPUOS

a) Adoption of Space Treaties and Principles: COPUOS played a central role in the development and adoption of several key space treaties and principles, including the Outer Space Treaty (1967), the Rescue Agreement (1968), the Liability Convention (1972), and the Registration Convention (1976). These treaties established fundamental principles for the peaceful use of outer space, including the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction in space, the requirement for states to provide assistance to astronauts in distress, and the establishment of liability mechanisms for damage caused by space objects

b) Development of Guidelines and Recommendations: COPUOS has developed a series of guidelines, recommendations, and best practices to promote the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space. These include guidelines on space debris mitigation, space traffic management, space weather monitoring, and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. COPUOS has also developed recommendations for the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and guidelines for the conduct of space activities by non-governmental entities.

c) Establishment of Working Groups and Expert Panels: COPUOS has established various working groups, expert panels, and sub-committees to address specific aspects of outer space activities. These groups focus on topics such as space debris, space weather, space law and policy, remote sensing, and the use of space technology for sustainable development. They serve as forums for discussion, information exchange, and the development of common approaches to addressing emerging challenges in outer space.

d) Promotion of International Cooperation and Capacity Building: COPUOS promotes international cooperation and capacity building in the peaceful uses of outer space through various initiatives and programs. These include the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to developing countries in the use of space technology for socioeconomic development. COPUOS also facilitates international partnerships and collaboration in areas such as satellite remote sensing, satellite navigation, and space science research.

e) Overall, COPUOS has played a crucial role in promoting international cooperation, fostering dialogue, and developing common frameworks for the peaceful and responsible use of outer space. Through its actions and initiatives, COPUOS continues to address the evolving

challenges and opportunities in outer space activities to benefit all humankind.

4.2. The Current State of the Topic

One significant development is the growing involvement of private companies in space exploration and utilization.

Companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin, and others are actively launching satellites, developing space tourism initiatives, and exploring opportunities for asteroid mining and lunar resource extraction.

This shift towards commercialization has added complexity to the regulatory landscape and highlighted the need for enhanced international cooperation to ensure the responsible and sustainable use of outer space.

There is also a heightened awareness of space security issues, including the rapid increase of space debris, the militarization of space, and the potential for conflicts over space resources.

Recent events, such as the testing of anti-satellite weapons and the creation of military space forces by some countries, have underlined the importance of establishing behavioral norms and confidence-building measures to mitigate the risk of conflict in space.

Various international organizations and initiatives are working to develop guidelines, standards, and best practices for the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space.

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) continues to play a central role in promoting international cooperation and dialogue on space-related issues.

COPUOS has established working groups and expert panels to address topics such as space debris mitigation, space traffic management, and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

Additionally, there has been a proliferation in spacefaring nations, with an increasing number of countries developing their space capabilities and launching satellites into orbit. This trend has led to greater diversity in the stakeholders involved in space activities and has created opportunities for collaboration and partnership among countries with varying levels of space expertise and resources.

In summary, the topic of refining international cooperation in the use of outer space remains

5 Possible Solutions

highly relevant in real day-to-day politics, as stakeholders grapple with the challenges and opportunities posed by the evolving space landscape.

Efforts to enhance cooperation, promote transparency, and develop common norms and standards will continue to be critical in ensuring the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space for the benefit of all humankind.

5. Possible Solutions

a) An initiative could be put forth to enhance Space Traffic Management (STM) protocols aimed at regulating the movement of spacecraft, satellites, and debris in outer space.

This initiative would prioritize the prevention of collisions and the mitigation of space debris, ensuring the long-term sustainability of space activities. Collaborative efforts among COPUOS member states, space agencies, and relevant stakeholders would be essential to develop international agreements, standards, and monitoring mechanisms for effective STM implementation.

b) An advocacy campaign could be launched to promote the establishment of an Internationally Coordinated Space Agency (ICSA) within the framework of COPUOS.

The ICSA would serve as a central coordinating body, facilitating cooperation among nations in the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space.

By fostering information exchange, technology sharing, and joint missions, the ICSA would strengthen international collaboration and advance the responsible use of space resources.

c) COPUOS could lead the drafting of a Comprehensive Space Code of Conduct (CSCC), outlining voluntary guidelines and principles for responsible conduct in outer space activities. The CSCC would encompass key areas such as satellite operations, debris mitigation, and space exploration, promoting transparency, cooperation, and conflict resolution among member states.

Adoption of the CSCC would signify a commitment to maintaining the peaceful uses of outer space and ensuring the sustainability of space endeavors.

6 Helpful Resources

6. Helpful Resources

The following sources are only a rough overview of information.

Please remember that you must inform yourself in depth about your country and its position!

- <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>
- <https://www.unoosa.org/>
- <https://www.esa.int/>
- <https://www.nasa.gov/>
- <https://www.space.com/>
- <https://swfound.org/>
- <https://www.thespacereview.com/>
- <https://www.planetary.org/>

Please study the Rules of Procedure for this year's OLMUN as all, as it is the foundation for proper debate during the conference. They can be found here: <https://www.olmun.org/uploads/2024/Downloads/RulesOfProcedure2024.pdf>.





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**23rd International
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