

Space Renaissance International

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Originally conceived as providing a stable background to space affairs, the Outer Space Treaty has proved an effective and moderate instrument, supporting the extensive growth of the space industry. Furtherance of space utilization will lead out many efforts for a peaceful and equitable future world. Even so the demand for alternative pathways to establish and maintain peace in space has become very pressing.

Current wars in Europe indicate a shift in momentum towards the defensive attributes of space technology rather than purely developmental and scientific engagements. The UN paradigms that permit and consolidate mutual and stable expectations can do much to alleviate divisiveness and antagonism between state parties.

The technologies of outer space are sensitive instruments that have considerable bearing on international affairs. These important issues include the prospects for the placement of dual use assets such as fast cyberspace complexes, space based solar power utilities and vehicles for satellite maneuverability. Although such technologies are highly pertinent for space industrialization at large, the lack of interchange and mutual agreement at treaty levels results in serious implications for global security.

While advanced cyberspace including fast space-based communications can be considered a medium of warfare, these surveillance complexes can also be viewed as essential elements in transnational interchange, with ramifications for the nuclear monitor. Likewise demanding issues such as border and arms control can be much improved through collaborative cyber interchange.

The safety and protection of satellite assets cannot be underestimated, as such inferences pose particular criteria for national bodies operating within the framework of defensive attributes. Yet even within necessary parameters the enhancement of global space situational awareness provides a valid and responsive outlook.

The current dynamic has become very critical and new pathways must be quickly investigated and examined. Progress towards a ban on the placement of space weapons is a complex issue that will result in the careful detailing of a number of contemporaneous agreements around the verification and usage of dual use technologies and the attributes of space surveillance and collaborative intelligence.

The alternative to such a process cannot be contemplated. A world in which the open and accessible features of outer space development become constrained by overt political pressures and militarization is unacceptable. The risks of such a closed technological scenario may escalate over many years, forestalling the international lunar settlement program and exposing humanity to the dangers of a defunct and unusable low earth orbital status.

Although the UN protocols are largely taken up by PAROS, the Committee for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Space and the Security Council, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will also have a role to play. SRI requests that all delegates and states make clear commitments towards the establishment of a comprehensive space weapons ban and continue to explore the potentials of international alignment through advancing the scope of the Outer Space Treaty.