

HMDC Presents... FUTURISTIC SC: Video 2 Transcripts

These are the words spoken in the two Video 2 films for FUTURISTIC SC (The United Nations and International Efforts). We read along while we watch, pause at each time mark, and circle any word we do not know so we can look it up together.

VIDEO 2 (EXPLAINER)

[0:00] Welcome, delegates. Let's jump right straight into our explainer today. The exact title of our briefing is, HMDC Presents... Futuristic Security Council, Use of Space in 2100, Part 2, The UN and International Efforts. I'm going to be speaking slowly and in plain English for you all today. Everything we're discussing is based on real-world facts to get you fully prepared for your committee. Grasping this reality will provide direct help as you begin your negotiations. Okay, here is a quick look at our agenda. Section 1 is treaties and voluntary space rules. Section 2 is security talks and the veto. Section 3 covers future pacts and civilian help. Section 4 is working and not working rules. Section 5 looks at international efforts and gaps.

[0:45] And finally, Section 6 is security council adds value. So, let's kick things off with Section 1, treaties and voluntary space rules. Now, notice the huge difference in support for these two foundational documents. According to the COPUOS legal subcommittee on May 5, 2025, the Outer Space Treaty, which is Resolution A-RES-2222 from 1966, has 116 parties. This kind of widespread support is highly desirable because it really builds international trust. In stark contrast, the Moon Agreement, Resolution A-RES-34-68 from 1979, has only 17 parties. Having such a small number is definitely undesirable, as it limits the agreement's ability to provide help in global governance. We also see a highly desirable expansion in global participation over time. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, last accessed in October 2026, notes that the committee, known as COPUOS, grew from just 18 members back in 1958 all the way to 110 members in 2025. This growth is extremely desirable. More and more nations are stepping forward because they want to help shape the rules of orbit, making sure all regions get a voice in preventing harm. When it comes to handling debris and sustainability, the General Assembly endorsed the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines in Resolution A-RES-62-217 on December 22, 2007. Later, on December 13, 2019, they welcomed 21 long-term sustainability guidelines in Resolution A-RES-74-82. Both of these documents aim to provide help to all spacefaring nations. However, while having these frameworks is absolutely desirable, the fact that they remain entirely voluntary is undesirable. Without binding commitments, preventing harm in space becomes much more difficult.

[2:36] Security Talks and the Veto The United Nations holds ongoing security talks to prevent harm in orbit. And these discussions unfold step by step. First, we see norms of responsible behavior outlined in Resolution A-RES-75-36 on December 7, 2020. Then, open-ended working groups were created by Resolution A-RES-76-231 on December 24, 2021 to really foster dialogue. To further prevent harm, a call to stop destructive anti-satellite tests came in Resolution A-RES-77-41 on December 7, 2022. Finally, a no-first placement of weapons pledge was encouraged in Resolution A-RES-80-20 on December 1, 2025.

[3:24] Every single one of these steps represents an effort to establish a highly desirable standard for security. But as you probably know, the Security Council faces friction, and progress isn't always smooth. The United Nations Meetings Coverage, document SC-15678, reported that on April 24, 2024, the Council voted on draft S-2024-302 regarding nuclear weapons in orbit. Thirteen members voted in favor, China abstained, and Russia voted against it. Because of this negative vote from a permanent member, the draft was vetoed. This outcome is highly undesirable for those seeking binding rules. To follow up and provide some level of consensus, the General Assembly passed Resolution A-RES-79-18 on December 2, 2024 to reaffirm the nuclear ban. Future pacts and civilian help. World leaders are also looking ahead to secure a desirable future. The Pact for the Future, which is Resolution A-RES-79-1, adopted on September 22, 2024, calls for new frameworks to manage space traffic, clean up debris, and govern resources. Looking forward like this provides immense help in planning.

[4:34] The pact also proposes holding the UNISPACE IV conference in 2027 to discuss these critical topics and find ways to prevent future harm. So I want to pause here for just a second and ask you to consider a question. How does space provide help to civilians here on Earth? Think about how direct help from satellites reaches people during emergencies. Well, the UN-SPIDER program, last accessed in October 2026, answers that exact question. Established by Resolution A-RES-61-110 on December 14, 2006, this United Nations program shares critical satellite data during natural disasters. This is a highly desirable system because it provides direct help to people on the ground when they literally need it the most, minimizing harm during major crises. Let's transition to Section 4, Working and Not Working Rules. Using our sources list, we can evaluate outcomes across the whole international landscape.

[5:30] On the desirable side that provides help, we have the Outer Space Treaty, holding since 1967, providing a really stable foundation. Furthermore, there is consensus on voluntary guidelines, and UN-SPIDER provides direct help to developing countries during disasters. On the undesirable side that causes harm, space debris keeps growing, binding weapons talks have stalled out, and the Security Council vetoed a crucial space draft. Understanding these realities will absolutely provide help in your committee. Now let's dive into Section 5, International Efforts and Gaps. There are also several efforts happening outside the UN that aim to provide help and establish norms. For example, NASA data, last accessed in October 2026, shows the Artemis Accords now have 76 signers working toward common goals. Meanwhile, the European Space Agency, also accessed in October 2026, notes the zero debris charter includes over 200 organizations dedicated to mitigating harm. Looking ahead, the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, accessed October 2026, states that COPUOS Space Resources Principles are actually due in 2027. Additionally, UNIDIR, accessed October 2026, has created a space lexicon and hosted a conference to clarify terminology. Finally, an April 8, 2026 report from the Secure World Foundation highlights that independent monitoring now counts orbital debris, which is a highly desirable development for transparency. And finally, we arrive at Section 6. Security Council adds value. So to create a desirable resolution, you delegates must follow three critical steps. Step one, figure out how to make those voluntary rules binding. Step two, reach private companies through their licensing states. And step three, write language that all five permanent members can accept. Any claim that you can draft an effective resolution while ignoring the permanent members is entirely incorrect. You absolutely must build consensus to avoid harm and ensure your policies provide genuine help. Which brings us to our final thought for this explainer. How will you use these frameworks to draft a resolution that ensures a desirable future in space? You must use this exact history to prevent harm in the year 2100.

[7:43] Thank you so much for joining us, and good luck in your committee.

VIDEO 2 (CINEMATIC)

[0:00] Humanity's survival in space relies on rules written decades ago. But a critical shift in governing orbit puts that pristine environment at severe risk. In 1959, the UN set up a committee to guide the peaceful use of outer space, known as COPUOS. It began with just 24 members. This data visualization charts how that body expanded. Over the following decades, COPUOS grew from those original 24 nations to 110 members by 2025. With that many competing interests at the table, reaching total consensus became significantly harder. The smaller, early UN assembly was able to secure the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. This agreement successfully bound nations to keep nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction completely out of orbit.

[0:49] But the 1979 Moon Agreement marked a clear turning point. It declared lunar resources the common heritage of mankind. But only 17 nations actually signed on. That failure marked the end of new binding space treaties. As the orbital environment grew increasingly crowded with satellites and hardware, international lawmakers stopped signing enforceable rules. That retreat created a massive gap in global governance. Instead of treaties, the modern approach relies entirely on suggestions. In 2019, the UN adopted 21 sustainability guidelines for space activity. The crucial detail here is that compliance is strictly voluntary. This chart plots the stark reality of that approach. While voluntary compliance remains flat, data from the European Space Agency shows a massive unchecked spike.

[1:39] We now have over 40,000 tracked debris objects flying through low Earth orbit at bullet-like speeds. We see the same pattern with military threats. In 2022, a UN resolution called on states to stop testing destructive anti-satellite missiles. Without enforcement, this was merely a polite request. In April 2024, there was an attempt to pass a binding Security Council resolution to strictly prevent nuclear weapons in orbit. Because of the Security Council structure, a single veto blocked the entire measure. The General Assembly stepped in later that year to affirm the same nuclear ban. However, General Assembly resolutions lack the authority to compel any nation to act. Well-intentioned guidelines and symbolic votes lack the teeth required to stop physical harm.

[2:26] Debris continues to multiply, and anti-satellite weapons testing continues unchecked. Space technology itself continues to serve vital functions. Programs like UN-SPIDER actively share satellite data to direct rescues and relief efforts during terrestrial disasters. This map highlights 76 nations that have signed the Artemis Accords to coordinate lunar resources. This framework operates entirely outside the United Nations system. A similar effort, the Zero Debris Charter, gathered over 200 signers, aiming for clean orbits. Yet this network also relies completely on voluntary participation. Other efforts are currently working to draft new structures, including a shared vocabulary project by UNIDIR, and a set of lunar mining principles that COPUOS plans to finalize in 2027.

[3:14] These external pacts help organize specific coalitions. But without universal binding authority, they leave the broader global space environment exposed to overlapping claims and orbital collisions. Fast forward to our fictional assumption for the year 2100. Humanity has relied on weak suggestions for another seven decades. The compounding threat of debris clouds and advanced weaponry has rendered entire sections of orbit physically unusable. Only one international body possesses the actual legal authority to compel compliance across all nations, the United Nations Security Council. Your mandate as delegates in this futuristic committee is to take these scattered voluntary guidelines and translate them into universal binding law. True protection requires strict enforcement.

[4:00] The Futuristic Security Council stands as humanity's final defense against total orbital collapse.
