

**Disarmament & International Security Council – Background
Guide**



**Oakridge MUN
2022**

Letter from the EB

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Oakridge Model United Nations 2022. The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that will be debated at Oakridge MUN 2022 in committee sessions. Please note this guide only provides the basis for your research. It is your responsibility to find as much information necessary on the topics and how they relate to the country you represent.

The more information and understanding you acquire on the topic, the more you will be able to influence the Resolution writing process through debates [formal and informal caucuses]. Please feel free to contact us if and when you face challenges in your research. We encourage you to learn all you can about your topics first and then study your country with regard to the two selected topics. Please remember that the committee members are expected to be well versed and ready to debate the topic in entirety.

AGENDA 1:

“DISCUSSING PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE”

Introduction to the Agenda:

An Arms race by definition is a pattern of competitive acquisition of military capability between two or more countries. The last few decades have marked a new stage in the mounting arms race in space, where potentially bomb-armed satellites, laser-shooting spacecraft, and other technologies have been launched into outer space. In the hands of the wrong persons, (such as non-state actors, etc) these arms can cause irreversible and permanent fatality to humankind. Discouraging and implementing legislation to prevent nation states from participating in this race is crucial for the safety and future of humankind.

A brief about UNOOSA:

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is an office of the U.N. Secretariat that promotes and facilitates peaceful international cooperation in outer space. It works to establish or strengthen the legal and regulatory frameworks for space activities and assists developing countries in using space science and technology for sustainable socioeconomic development.

The Office was established in 1958 to assist and advise the ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), which was established by the UN General Assembly to discuss the scientific and legal aspects of exploring and using outer space to benefit humankind.

Resolutions Passed by UNOOSA pre 2015:

2013: https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/A_RES_68_074E.pdf
https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/A_RES_67_113E.pdf

2008: https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/ARES_62_101E.pdf

2005: https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/ARES_59_115E.pdf

2001: https://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/ARES_55_122E.pdf

AGENDA 2

“REVIEW ON THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION”

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted in 1982. It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. It embodies in one instrument traditional rules for the uses of the oceans and at the same time introduces new legal concepts and regimes and addresses new concerns. The Convention also provides the framework for further development of specific areas of the law of the sea.

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations serves as the secretariat of the Convention on the Law of the Sea and provides information, advice and assistance to States with a view to providing a better understanding of the Convention and the related

Agreements, their wider acceptance, uniform and consistent application and effective implementation. The Division monitors all developments relating to the Convention, the law of the sea and ocean affairs and reports annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations on those developments. It also assists the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea in reviewing such developments.

Why an international treaty for the high seas is crucial to biodiversity

Marine Biodiversity of areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) refers to the marine life found in the high seas, and is known to be a murky and complex topic. The so-called high seas encompass all areas that lie beyond national waters - specifically, they are outside of the exclusive economic zone of any country, and equate to almost $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Earth's surface. The high seas are largely unexplored, vastly deep, and teeming with marine life. At the same time, they are under increasing threat from overfishing, mining, climate change, and pollution. Only around 1% are currently protected and - due to the lack of clear rules and effective enforcement that follows as well as persisting governance gaps - the high seas are notoriously difficult to manage and often subject to contention.

Work of the General Assembly Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction

In the last decade, questions have been raised whether the current framework sufficiently addresses the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

In 2004, the General Assembly established the Ad Hoc Openended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (the Working Group). In particular, the Working Group was requested (resolution 59/24, paragraph 73) to:

- a) survey the past and present activities of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;
- (b) examine the scientific, technical, economic, legal, environmental, socio-economic and other aspects of these issues;
- (c) identify key issues and questions where more detailed background studies would facilitate consideration by States of these issues; and
- (d) indicate, where appropriate, possible options and approaches to promote international cooperation and coordination for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

Document to refer: [N1723736.pdf](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/237/36/PDF/N1723736.pdf?OpenElement)
([un.orhttps://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/237/36/PDF/N1723736.pdf?OpenElement](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/237/36/PDF/N1723736.pdf?OpenElement))

^ Report of the preparatory committee established by the UNGA Resolution 69/292