



# Afghanistan

Anam Ahmed | Elizabethtown High School

**Head of State:** Ashraf Ghani   **GDP:** 664.76 USD per capita   **Population:** 33,895,000

**UN Ambassador:** Mahmoud Saikal   **Joined UN:** 1946

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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## **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Afghanistan is the highest refugee producing country with roughly six million refugees. Regarding immigration and refugees, Afghanistan believes that all neighboring countries to those with the highest refugee count, such as Syria and Afghanistan, need to have an open door policy to these individuals. The refugees would need to be approved by the government in order to enter and live in the country; however, if denied access they must not be forced back. Refugee camps with adequate food, water, medical help, and shelter must be provided by the UN and its members in order to reduce refugee suffering. Although many of the countries around the world will disagree with this plan, they fail to realize the severity of this issue. In Afghanistan millions of individuals are left to fend for themselves in a foreign land with literally nothing but the clothes on their back. As a country with over six million refugees, we are able understand the necessity for a change in the current situation. The UN distinguishes between asylum seekers and refugees, however those who are not accepted by others need not be excluded from having a proper life. With the dramatic increase of refugees and immigrants around the world resulting from the dramatic increase of wars of crises, the UN must acknowledge and call all people fleeing from their country refugees and not distinguish between the two. The main purpose of the United Nations it protect the lives and rights of people of the world. Refugees face issues unfathomable for any individual living in a first world country. Refugees cannot live safely in their own country so they flee. Whether at camps or living in the city, refugees and immigrants face the loss of their culture, a disconnect with the people around them, discrimination, starvation, medical issues, and death. It is the duty of the entire world to help these individuals, not prevent them from living a peaceful life. Imagine a family trying to escape from the war raging around them, hopefully arriving in a new nation foreign to them with no belongings. Then, the people and government shun them and leave them in conditions just as terrible as before. The members of the UN need to assist countries with a high influx of immigrants and refugees by providing money and allowing immigration of all individuals whether from the Middle East, Africa, or someplace else. It is the duty of the privileged to help the less privileged, and it is needed for them to help even if the issue is not right outside their front door. The EU is facing an issue with their past policies. With their location near both Africa and the Middle East, Europe is being flooded with millions of refugees who need assistance. The EU is realizing that their open door policy has resulted in economic issues for their citizens and is placing a strain on their respective countries. However, the United Nations was created in order to ensure the rights of individuals not preserve the economies of countries. That being said, the UN must not interfere with the refugee and immigrant policies of countries including the US and Canada, but should make certain that the immigrants and refugees are given help in either their own countries or ones that they have fled to. The UN needs to have a controlled system in which they assess the state of the refugee and help them become accustomed to the country that they have come to. Especially with the Syrian Civil War, these individuals are trying to escape the war and the danger of being forced to pick a side. Most immigrants and refugees, although unfortunate to say, are uneducated and need assistance if they want to grow and thrive in their new environment. Often times they need time to learn the language and the customs of the country; they need people that understand their circumstances and are able to support them. The UN must intervene; with millions of refugees this is the time for action. The UN must help these individuals have a positive impact on their new communities by providing education and programs that offer support financially as well as socially.

## **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The laws need to be aware of the new technological advances in maritime exploration. They must acknowledge the use of land and ownership of artificial islands. A stagnant idea is an ineffective idea in an ever-changing world. The law must be updated when significant advances occur in maritime exploration. AS for historical precedence of islands, Afghanistan believes this to be of great importance. The land of a people belongs to the original people. International laws must be set in place in order to restrict the ownership of lands historically owned by other countries. Construction of artificial islands must be allowed. As a landlocked Middle Eastern country we would not see immediate benefits of the allowance of the creation of artificial islands. However, one of our neighboring countries the UAE, created one of the most successful artificial islands that is a hotspot for tourism and dramatically increases national revenue. The United Nations should allow all countries to create artificial islands under circumstances. The island must be constructed within an area limited to that country only. No areas should be shared among countries in order to reduce conflict. The guidelines should be updated only when necessary or the Security Council finds that an issue is arising in regards to the creation of artificial islands. In regards to the policing and organization of the construction of artificial islands, the country that is creating the islands must be responsible. Although an island is artificially created, it must still be granted the status of an island. The inhabitants of the new island deserve to be recognized as part of the country as well as their own community. Ships must respect all the safety zones set around these artificial islands; again, although not made form nature, these islands and their inhabitants deserve to have safety, recognition, and protection form other countries. The UN needs to help countries obtain claims on the "new land" that are formed from changing global temperatures. The UN needs to ensure that all countries are getting fair portions of land if they want any. They need to distribute and evaluate the land for the new settlers. The UN needs to also make certain that a majority of the land is preserved for the animals and species that have inhabited that area for years.

## **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Afghanistan is a country that has very little experience in space travel and exploration with only one Afghan man to ever go into space. Despite our lack of space exploration, we have programs in place that try to enhance the public's interest in such ventures. If we gather any resources in space either through our government or private entities we should be allowed to have exclusive rights to them; similar to resources found on earth, each government or business is allowed to do what they please

with these resources. In regards to military satellites in space, they should be prohibited. Although they are often launched in order to protect the citizens of their country or other countries country, these satellites if used would have devastating effects on the human race. With war raging in dozens of areas on earth, we need to realize that the addition of more methods of war should be stopped at all costs. The Security Council, especially the five permanent members, need to create and enforce laws and restrictions in regards to the limitation of military satellites. Afghanistan believes that the UN must not interfere with space exploration, as it does not pertain to the rights and safety of the human race. However, we believe it to be the UN's duty to limit the use and launch of military satellites in order to potentially eliminate the suffering of individuals world wide if used.



# Barbados

Christian Thompson | Franklin County HS

**Head of State:** Freundel Stuart **GDP:** 4.663 Billion **Population:** 277,821

**UN Ambassador:** Keith Hamilton Lewellyn Marshall **Joined UN:** 1966

**Current Member of UNSC:** No **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Barbados is not a country with a refugee problem nor are we a country that receives many refugees. We have a -99.06% total population of concern and do not even have 100 people trying to get into the country. We have no concern or worry about refugees and will allow larger, richer nations to take care of that issue.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Uninhabited until the British arrived in the 17th century, Barbados is a small island nation dependent on our waters. We rely on the water for food and tourism so we are very dependent on maritime laws. In April of 2006, the Permanent Court of Arbitration delimited a maritime boundary and limited the quota on flying fish after a dispute with Trinidad and Tobago and ourselves in their waters. We also are in an alliance with several other Caribbean nations over Venezuela's claim that Aves Island sustains human habitation, a criterion under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which permits Venezuela to extend its Economic Exclusion Zone/continental shelf over a large portion of the eastern Caribbean Sea.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

We are not a country who has been to space nor do we have a space program. However we are a Commonwealth of the United Kingdom and we agree with the stance of peaceful space exploration between all nations. We want science to prevail, not the hopes and aspirations of nations.



# Belgium

Arinze Akpom | Heritage Christian Academy

**Head of State:** Charles Michel **GDP:** USD 46,877.99 **Population:** 11,371,928

**UN Ambassador:** Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve **Joined UN:** 27 december 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Like all countries, Belgium has an immigration policy to regulate who can and cannot come into Belgium. That being said, Belgium is quite lenient on the subject of immigration and taking in refugees when compared to its fellow countries during an influx of refugees which made their way to Europe in the past year. As a result of this influx, the number of asylum seeker whom made their way into Belgium, increased by almost fifty-five percent. This caused temporary economic issues throughout the entire EU. However, Belgium is also (as of 2016) has the record for voluntary repatriation of immigration in Europe. This means that Immigrants/refugees had voluntarily left the country for one reason or another. This was done with 4000 immigrants, many of whom were Afghani and Iraqi whom were trying to become gain their citizenship and failed and had decided that they would be better off going back to their origin country rather than staying in Belgium illegally. The country of Belgium capitalizes on this by making it not as hard for those whom do not receive citizenship. Unlike the other countries in EU, instead of only giving a check for a one way trip back to their origin country, Belgium sends the back to their origin country and pays for a small home and health care.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The country of Belgium is almost surrounded by other countries. The only place where the country borders any major bodies of water is along its Northwest border. This body of water is called the North Sea/English Channel. The Belgian Maritime Code governs areas like the status of the ship, the shipmasters, and the ship owners, shipping companies and shipping agents, inland navigation public maritime law, ship arrest. This Code also regulates the manner in which disputes related to maritime transport and shipping are handled in a court of law. The port of Antwerp is the most important one in the country, but others like Ghent, a multifunctional port and Ostend, are also important transit routes and play important roles in transport activities. Belgian ports are some of the most important in Europe and the port of Antwerp ranks second in the EU. The country has four sea ports and six inland ports that act as important transit routes for transportation within the EU. The maritime law in Belgium governs the operation and functioning within these ports/ The Belgian maritime law adheres to European and international Conventions, such as salvage and arrest conventions, the Hague and the Visby Rules and the SDR Protocol, and certain Oil Pollution Conventions. The Nautical Commission with the Antwerp Court of Commerce is responsible for surveying and assisting other Belgian courts in maritime law issues. A Nautical Commission also exists in the Antwerp Court of Commerce.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Although Belgium does not have a space program of its own, it is in the making. Belgium is cooperating with the country of China to start its very own space program. Belgium has never owned a Space Program. However, all contributions in science and research made by Belgium went to the EU's joint space program, also known as the European Space Agency (ESA)



# China

Eileen Bunch | Villa Madonna Academy

**Head of State:** Xi Jinping    **GDP:** 21.27 trillion USD    **Population:** 1,373,541,278

**UN Ambassador:** Liu Jieyi    **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes    **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

The People's Republic of China will uphold its current policies to not accept refugees (in this time of conflict in the Middle East, "refugees" and "asylum seekers" hold the same status) due to social and political concerns. China's national identity is built around shared heritage and history, and welcoming refugees from other nations would be detrimental not only to Chinese people but to those coming in from outside nations. And as Wu Sike, former Chinese Special Envoy on the Middle East, said in 2015, the root cause of the refugee crisis in the Middle East is the fault of Western nations' over-involvement and attempted democratization of the region. Therefore, China cannot shoulder the responsibility of taking in the people displaced by conflicts such as the ones in Syria. Countries like the United States and Canada will disagree with this decision and urge China to accept refugees. The United States, however, holds a great responsibility for the current refugee crisis, and thus holds a great responsibility towards solving that crisis. China lacks the institutions necessary for accepting refugees, and therefore could not feasibly take them in. Trying to take in some refugees would involve a political favoritism in which China is not willing to participate, as a key component of China's foreign policy doctrine is non-interference in other nations. Simply put, China must consider its own interests and not become involved in the business of other nations. Accepting refugees would violate both of those precepts. Despite an inability to accept refugees, China does not necessarily block immigrants. Though it has become a stricter process in recent years, those seeking to live in China do have a path to doing so.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The Law of the Sea Treaty must be amended to recognize the legitimacy of artificial islands and to grant sea territory to countries with historical precedence. China has been building up artificial islands in the South China Sea and laying claim to more territory there, moves which the United States has vehemently opposed. During his confirmation hearing, the United States Secretary of State Rex Tillerson stated his intentions to block China's access from these areas, which have been militarized by China. The People's Republic of China has put in the time, money, effort, and resources to build up these islands, and therefore the control over the land and the surrounding waters should belong to that nation. China faces opposition to these claims from Indonesia and the Philippines as well as the United States, as those two island nations feel as though they have a legitimate claim to the islands as well. An act on behalf of any country to blockade China's access to the islands would be seen as an act of war. The Arctic is another region of concern for the UN Security Council and for China. China has not yet published any official policy or strategy regarding the Arctic in the way that the US and EU have. China has a major interest in being involved in the changing governance and use of Arctic lands and therefore will pursue that interest. In 2015, the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Ming delivered a speech stating that China's primary interest in the Arctic is science. However, it is clear that China's interests have become broader more recently, because, according to Foreign Minister Zhang, given China's position as a "near-Arctic" country, "The changing natural environment and resources exploration of the Arctic have direct impact on China's climate, environment, agriculture, shipping, trade as well as social and economic development."

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

The People's Republic of China has a rapidly growing space program. It would be the preference of China for that space program's growth to be limited by no restrictions from the UN or other entities. Many nations across the world have been considering and testing the possibilities of weaponizing space programs, and this has become a concern for international conflicts. China would like to see space exploration to remain peaceful but not overly restricted. Competition between nations (e.g. India's competition with China to launch military satellites) could easily escalate to war. This should be prevented and peaceful progress for the sake of science and national interest should be promoted. Private entities seeking to form space programs or control outer space resources should answer to their countries of origin in accordance to whatever guidelines are set forth by the United Nations. Resources gathered in space should be controlled by the country or countries responsible for gathering them, through technology, funding, etc.



## Costa Rica

Nicholas Dennis | Lexington Catholic HS

**Head of State:** Luis Guillermo Solís   **GDP:** \$49.62 billion USD   **Population:** 4.8 million

**UN Ambassador:** Juan Carlos Mendoza García   **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Costa Rica is a worldwide leader in aiding refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants. Costa Rica welcomes thousands of refugees from Central American countries such as El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. Costa Rica allows refugees seeking asylum 2 appeals and allows refugees to work/attend school while in the application process. Costa Rica attempts to welcome all comers, however there are financial constraints for such a small nation. Costa Rica would benefit greatly from UN or United States financial support to help more refugees. With recent policy decisions in the US affecting immigration to and asylum in the United States, a greater strain will be placed on Costa Rica to aid refugees and asylum seekers.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Costa Rica is not opposed to the construction of artificial islands so long as there are no grotesque long term negative consequences to the environment or residents. Any nation wishing to construct an artificial island within its own territory should be free to do so. Costa Rica believes that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea should be followed by all signatories and that all nations should be responsible in their use of the seas.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Costa Rica does not have the financial means to develop its own space exploration program but it does believe that peaceful space exploration is possible and attainable. By putting aside international differences and working together to further humanity, we as citizens of earth can conquer space as a whole, rather than through struggles as individual nations. The United Nations should not adopt any policy that hinders peaceful space exploration or unfairly restricts the ability of a nation to explore space.



## Cuba

Jonah Fern | Franklin County HS

**Head of State:** Raul Castro   **GDP:** \$77.15 billion USD   **Population:** 11.39 Million

**UN Ambassador:** Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez   **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Cuba is not typically known to be a mecca for asylum seekers or refugees. In many cases Cuban citizens are the people who flee the country's communist government. Recently, the former President of the United States, Barack Obama, cancelled the U.S.'s "Wet foot, Dry foot" Policy. This put an end to the past policy that allowed for any Cuban that did not support their country's government and made it to American land to be given asylum. Therefore, the best solution that could be brought forth would be a UN resolution that would help the citizens of hostile, communist countries find asylum. A better solution, however, would be the condemnation of communist leaders; Raul Castro, the current communist party leader of Cuba who is highly disliked globally, and has a low approval rating of approximately 47% of Cuban citizens approving of him. To get rid of these leaders, and hostile (sometimes communist) governments, would be of interest to the citizens of countries like Russia, China, and especially our country- Cuba. The U.S. would support the Cuban citizens, as well as citizens of countries with hostile governments, as the U.S. government has frequently within its history condemned, and did all it could to get rid of, hostile governments that pose threats to democracy.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Harvesting the amount of sand needed to create artificial Islands can negatively effect poor, island countries such as Cuba, or but can also negatively effect the ecosystem. The dredging equipment itself can cause negative effects on the aquatic life and marine ecosystems which surround island nations, but the removal of large amounts of sand can also cause desertification- a process which robs land of its vegetation, water sources, and wildlife. Cuba, a nation which thrives economically on its tobacco industry, can not afford to lose any of its tobacco harvest due to desertification. As well, its fishing industry would also be negatively affected by the pollution and damage that the dredging itself causes. It is because of this that Cuba will not support any resolutions which try to spread the development of artificial islands across the oceans and other bodies of water internationally. Many different island nations, especially those that have major industries in agriculture, aquatics, or even tourism (as desertification would make island nations look much less inviting) would support resolutions against the building of artificial islands due to the economic and environmental consequences. The U.S., after having discussed a harsh response to China's building of artificial islands in the Pacific Ocean, would also support Cuba in its endeavors. China, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, all relatively wealthy countries, would not support any efforts to ending the building of these islands- they all have made, and have supported the building of these islands.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

In 1978, Arnaldo Tamayo-Mendez, the first Cuban to travel into space, was selected to participate in an "intercosmos" program started by the then Soviet Union. However this was, until recent years, the only connection to space exploration that Cuba had. In 2013, there was discussion between the Russian and Cuban Governments on the creation of a cooperative space program between the two; the main purpose being to work together to maintain their alliance, and create a mode of peaceful space exploration for Cuba. As far as any resolutions that Cuba may support on this topic, anything that would help grow their prospects of space exploration would be supported by the Cuban Government and people. Countries that may support bills expanding and developing space exploration internationally could include technologically advanced countries with space programs that would benefit from UN assistance, or countries that do not yet have working space travel programs but would like to begin, or further develop their own.



# Cyprus

Kaitlyn Winters | South Oldham High School

**Head of State:** Nicos Anastasiades    **GDP:** 19.32 billion USD    **Population:** 1.141 million

**UN Ambassador:** Nicholas Emiliou    **Joined UN:** 1964

**Current Member of UNSC:** No    **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Being so close to Syria, one would think Cyprus would have a lot of refugees. Cyprus does not. They are strict when it comes to accepting refugees. Only 3% of asylum seekers are granted refugee status. If it weren't for this, Cyprus would become overflowed with refugees. The UN definitions of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants satisfy the evolving crisis around current displaced individuals, seeing as how they show a direct line between who is approved to be in the country and who is not. The title of refugee allows Cyprus to identify who is allowed in the country and who to keep out. The UN should not get majorly involved. Each member state should be allowed to decide for themselves how many asylum seekers they grant refugee status to. No one should be forced to take in refugees. However, the UN should be allowed to make sure that once granted refugee status, refugees are not abused or mistreated. Member states should be expected to treat the refugees that they allow in with respect. While it may be a good idea to have the UN help try to find a solution to the problems going on in the EU, members of the UN who are not also a part of the EU should not have as much say. The problems do not directly impact them, how they do with member states. Countries such as America and Canada should have the right to deal with asylum seekers who come to them however they please, but not to control what we do. If the Syrian crisis continues to a point where the UN feels they should take action, they still shouldn't force refugees on anyone.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Maritime laws are good just as they are. The islands are very helpful and bring in loads of tourism. Tourists help boost the economy of those countries in which tourism is a huge industry, like Cyprus. While man made islands are helpful, they should not be named islands. They should be under full control of the country that builds them. Ships should respect the safety zones just as they would for a regular island. The "new land" brought in by changing climate should be regulated by the UN and should be shared equally among all of the nations that are a part of the UN. The security council should have control in the new arctic. We need to make sure that the environment is protected so that it can be in use. Cyprus would like to see a resolution that would allow the making of manmade islands, while keeping them completely in control of the country who made them.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

While space travel is very beneficial, recently it has been used for harm. The technology being sent up there is wonderful, but has gotten out of hand. There should be no missiles sent up to space. While nations should have rights to obtain anything they may find while up in space, they should not have rights to send anything they want up into space. There should be no missiles whatsoever allowed into space. Countries should have to have any spacecraft inspected by the UN before being allowed to send said spacecraft into space. This would lead to peace in space, seeing as how if no one is allowed to send missiles up there will be no tension about what is up in space. Any country should be allowed to explore space with no restrictions. By all means, go and learn what is out there. There is no need to bring any sort of weapons into space that could cause any war or tension.



# Finland

Emma Landenwicht | Sacred Heart Academy

**Head of State:** Sauli Niinistö   **GDP:** 267.3 billion USD   **Population:** 5,523,904

**UN Ambassador:** Kai Sauer   **Joined UN:** 1955

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes   **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Finland supports immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, however in recent times has been forced to limit their source of refuge due to an inability to financially maintain their reception centers. For our many reception centers, "the closures are necessary because of the high cost of keeping the facilities in operation." Additionally, "Finnish Immigration Service states that a total of 32,476 people applied for asylum in Finland in 2015 and 5,657 persons in 2016" which is an exponential amount of people for one country to take in. My country would support a resolution regarding the issue - either to somehow subsidize countries who adequately take in the refugees or to assuage other countries to take in the refugees as well. Other countries in the European Union would support my position.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

My country has increasingly become closely aligned with China and takes the position that their historical precedence in the islands of South and East China Sea holds legitimacy in allowing them to use the islands for more than solely economic gains. In a close alliance, Finland and China are "taking positive steps to implement the important consensus reached between President Xi Jinping and President Sauli Niinistö and making joint efforts to forge and promote a new type of future-oriented cooperative partnership." Furthermore, Finland supports China in their "efforts of entrepreneurship, and Arctic scientific research." However, as a country we would ward against any type of military involvement and would prefer a resolution regarding the conflicts between such nations in these issues.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Finland supports peaceful space exploration and desires a more comprehensive and legitimate resolution addressing the code of conduct for extraterrestrial militarization. Although a country with few prospects in terms of utilizing our space initiative to act upon other countries, my country supports the protection available through the resolutions of the UN to protect its own people from any such circumstance.



## France

Macee Pennington | Rowan County Senior High School

**Head of State:** François Hollande **GDP:** 2.418 Trillion USD **Population:** 66.03 million

**UN Ambassador:** François Delattre **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

France has a long tradition of offering asylum to foreign refugees, and the right of asylum has constitutional value under French law. French asylum law is heavily based on international and European law. There are two types of asylum protection in France: refugee protection and subsidiary protection. Asylum essentially rests on the serious possibility that the asylum seeker could be the victim of persecution or harm in his/her country of origin. Asylum may be denied or revoked for individuals who have committed crimes or whose presence would be a threat to society or national security. Generally though, France is one of the more welcoming countries in the UN for refugees. Countries that would strongly support Frances stance include Jordan, Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

France is the largest West European country and it has a wide network of inland waterways as well as a vast area of territorial waters, including its numerous overseas territories. The French Maritime Law consists of French laws, European Union laws, and international maritime provisions. According to this law, France territorial waters extend to a limit of 12 nautical miles. A territorial baseline is determined alongside the closing lines of bays. France also has jurisdiction over the airspace and the seabed of its existing territorial waters. Across the globe, artificial islands are an expensive but in some cases lucrative option for many countries having lack-of-land problems. Currently, France has built two artificial islands: Fort Boyard and Île aux Cygnes. Countries which have similar experiences and opinions of artificial islands include the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, Japan, and India.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Space travel has long been a significant ambition in French culture and still today France is undoubtedly one of the world leaders in space exploration and will continue to be in the future. In the beginning of the twentieth century, the origins of the French space program were tied to French technological developments in aerospace and aeronautics. Because of this so called "French Space Age," to this day France continues to heavily fund the aerospace industry seeing as they have benefited so much from it in the past. The construction of the Ariane 6 launcher is underway, after being approved by all European Space Agency (ESA) countries in 2016. Outside of the ESA, countries like the United States, Russia, China, and Japan will be strong advocates for furthering space exploration.



## Haiti

Madison Cunningham | Franklin County High School

**Head of State:** Jovenel Moïse **GDP:** 8.77 billion US dollars **Population:** 10,937,564

**UN Ambassador:** Denis Regis **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Haiti has a huge amount of Haitians and migrants trying to get out of Haiti. Ever since the hurricane in 2010 the numbers of Haitians trying to get into the United States has increased. While I could not find any information on immigration and refugees in Haiti, I did find a lot of information about people from Haiti and surrounding countries trying to flee to the United States. Haiti does not fully approve of immigration, refugees, and asylum seekers because we do not have enough resources to provide for them. But we will welcome them to Haiti. Most of our allies will be opened to this idea and possibly help us, like Canada, Mexico, Chile, but the United States will be opposed to the idea because they do not exactly support the idea of immigration.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Haiti is fine with artificial islands and Haiti does have connection with the International Maritime Institute (IMO) which is organized and runned by the United Nations. But Haiti does not have the Maritime Law established in the country. My resolution is that we just keep it the same. I do not see the reason for establishing this law. My allies will be ok with this resolution because most of them do not have this law either.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Haiti supports the idea of peaceful space exploration. While it is not a big issue in Haiti, it is in different countries, which some are the allies of Haiti. In 2005, the United Nations published an article for the first committee (Disarmament and International Security) proposing for the Prevention of outer space race, Mediterranean security among issues. It says that the call for prevention of an outer space race is important and would "advert a grave danger for international peace and security". We should all try to keep this world as peaceful as we can and try to keep our countries safe. Haiti agrees with the United Nations and most of Haiti's allies also support it except the United States because the representative for the United States said that there was no arms race in outer space so there is no arms control problem to address. It also states in the United Nations article that the resolution is sponsored by Haiti, along with Haiti's allies: Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, and India.



# India

Keith Fowler | North Hardin High School

**Head of State:** Pranab Mukherjee   **GDP:** 2095.40 billion   **Population:** 1.252 billion

**UN Ambassador:** Richard Verma   **Joined UN:** 1946

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

On the issue of Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum seekers, India is the second most populated country on the planet. We already have many problems dealing with our own populous and well being. India is an impoverished country with an average monthly wage of only 295 USD, and an unemployment rate of an all time high of 9.4% in the December of 2010. As a nation we are not in an applicable position to take in many refugees, but would still welcome them as a part of our customs. Many countries such as Great Britain, France, and America would respect this decision as they are allies of India and face many of these challenges in similar ways. However, these views would build much animosity with our neighbors of Iraq, Iran, and Syria as these refugees are coming from their lands, and acts against their people may be met with hostilities.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

As India could become the target from attacks and settlements of these artificial islands near our sovereign borders, we would strongly oppose anyone who is in favor of operating and or constructing these islands. Since our neighbor of Maldives just recently made these islands a possibility for purchase, we must prepare in case of a Chinese base appearing nearby and make our positions clear on our opinions of these fortifications. Many nations, especially the United States and Australia would stand behind us as these nations are dealing with these constructions in a similar fashion. Several enemies, however, include China and Vietnam as these nations would seek to use these islands to their own benefit.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

With our own space exploration group, the ISRO, India is on track to join other nations in the stars with satellites and hopefully more manned missions in the future. That said, we would definitely support an initiative for safe and peaceful space exploration for years to come. We would stand with those who have come before us such as the United States and many others that participate in peaceful space missions and research. We may also receive problems with Russia or even China, as their views and motives for space exploration and research may not always align with our own.



# Indonesia

Shane bickett | South Oldham HS

**Head of State:** Joko Widodo **GDP:** 868.3 billion **Population:** 250 million

**UN Ambassador:** Dian Triansyah Djani **Joined UN:** 1950

**Current Member of UNSC:** No **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

we are pro immigration and we are harsh on our refugees that come for asylum. they have little to no rights under our laws. we would like to see a resolution that creates peace stopping most issues causing refugees. our surrounding countries would side with us.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

indonesia wants peace. we are in favor of most everything that creates peace. china and the us oppose this because the us wants total control.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

we are extremely pro space exploration. we want our youth involved and we want to know what's out there. the US and russia would support this. even though future problems could instill.



## Iran

Matt Lay | Christian Academy of Louisville

**Head of State:** Hassan Rouhani   **GDP:** 438 Billion USD   **Population:** 80 million

**UN Ambassador:** Gholamali Khoshroo   **Joined UN:** 24-10-45

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Iran is actively involved in the Syrian refugee crisis. Iran backs Assad, who is currently trying to combat Isis. However, Iran isn't currently taking any refugees in from that area. There are varying viewpoints as to why this is the case. The first opinion, stated by Hamid Dabashi, says Iran doesn't take refugees because they simply don't like them. This is evident in the often racist tendencies they show towards Afghan refugees. Migrationpolicy.org says there is also a simpler answer: Iran doesn't share a border with Syria, making it less accessible in contrast to countries like Lebanon or Turkey that share a direct border. A noteworthy statistic that comes from MigrationPolicy.org says, "By 2002, the Ministry of Interior estimated there were some 2.57 million immigrants in Iran, of which more than 90 percent (or 2.3 million) were Afghans. Iran also hosts some 30,000 refugees of various nationalities, including Tajiks, Bosnians, Azeris, Eritreans, Somalis, Bangladeshis, and Pakistanis." Since then Iran has been taking in more refugees, but they have a very large population of Afghan refugees. Accepting more refugees could put a strain on Iran's economy. Iran has given numerous resources as well. As of early 2014 Iran sent 150 tons of humanitarian goods including 3,000 tents and 10,000 blankets to the Red Crescents of Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon through land routes to be distributed among the Syrian refugees residing in the three countries. Other countries in the surrounding areas have not come close to this. Iran would like to pursue taking out the cause of the refugee crisis, ISIS. ISIS has tried to set up terror Cells on the Iraq-Iran border and Iran's Army removed them. Also, when ISIS became a prevalent problem in Northern Iraq; Iran was the first to provide troops in a counter offensive. Our allies in this matter include Iraq and Russia.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The most current reference to Iran and artificial islands is by Bahman Aghai Diba; PhD in International Law of the Sea. In his article, Legal Regime of the Artificial Islands in the Caspian Sea, he states, "Iran announced in 2005 that the Iranian artificial island in the Caspian Sea will cover nine million square meters and will be built in the northern province of Gilan. The Gilan Province Panning Commission has in principle approved the project." Dr. Diba goes on to talk about the legal point of view of the artificial islands in the Caspian Sea. The Caspian Sea is considered a "sui generis", meaning that it is not subject to the customary rules of the international law of the sea." This allows the littoral nations to reach a consensus on how the Sea would be divided. Countries in this area have not been able to work something out. Basically, Iran supports the idea of Artificial Islands and would be willing to support most countries on this matter. Possible allies: China and Russia.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

The Iranian Space Agency (ISA) was a progressive space program that exploded with progress in the 2000's. Iran believes in peaceful exploration and the sharing of technologies especially more efficient rockets. Iran currently supports the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS). Also, Iran is one of the 24 founding members of COPUOS, which was set up in 1958. Would support Russia.



## Iraq

Savannah Kingery | Elizabethtown High School

**Head of State:** Fuad Masum **GDP:** 173.6 billion USD **Population:** 37,500,000

**UN Ambassador:** Mohamed Ali Alhakim **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Iraq believes that all people fleeing conflict and seeking safety should be considered refugees, and we believe that members of the UN should take interest in the protection of these people. This definition of refugees redefines asylum seekers as refugees. Iraq believes that any person seeking protection, regardless of whether or not their country is specifically in war, should be classified in the same way as others fleeing their war ridden country in search of protection. Individual states/nations have the right to accept or deny refugees, however we believe it is in the best interest of the UN that countries who are able, open their borders to those seeking refuge. Iraq praises the actions of Canada in its plan to accept and naturalize immigrants into their nation, however we feel that progress in the acceptance of immigrants has been damaged by President Donald Trump's ban on immigrants from 7 middle eastern countries, including Iraq. The UN should do all that it can to assure that immigrants are safely and fairly placed in member countries. The UN should also work to assure that refugee's basic human rights are not infringed upon, and that they are granted the right to safe asylum, as well as freedom of thought, movement, and freedom from torture and degrading treatment. Member states who are able should be expected to draft plans to accept and naturalize refugees into their borders. It is in the interest of the UN that refugees are evenly and fairly distributed across able member nations. The UN's main purpose is to protect and ensure the lives and rights of the world's people, and currently the lives and rights of many refugees are at stake. The UN cannot control the individual goals of the EU and its individual states, however the goals of the UN and many of the individual states coincide. The UN seeks to protect the rights and lives of all people, and many members of the EU are seeking to find just ways address the refugee problem. Many countries such as Germany, France, and Sweden seek to assist the immigrants in their migration and assimilation into their new asylum. Iraq believes that the production of a protocol to lawfully address the issue of refugees and their asylum could become necessary in the future. We believe that this protocol should continue to protect the refugee's right to safe asylum while guaranteeing them safe asylum in a specific area. Iraq would like to see resolutions that seek to protect the civil liberties of refugees, as well as provide them asylum. We would like to see resolutions that possibly incentivize able countries to accept and help to naturalize refugees. I expect to see support from many neighboring countries as well as supporters of refugees, such as Canada, Turkey, France, and Germany.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Iraq believes that maritime law should periodically be re-examined and possibly change to accommodate changes and growth in technology. Iraq believes that international law cannot always be expected to accommodate national claims, but can be accommodating within reason. Historical precedence should always be taken into account, but must be thoroughly examined and proved to be legitimate before being seriously considered. Iraq believes that the Convention on Law of the Sea should be updated every twenty years or whenever seen fit. The construction of artificial islands should be allowed to any country within a 200-mile limit. Iraq understands that this could cause controversy in many countries, and recommends that the guidelines for creating an artificial island be frequently reconsidered to fit the ever-changing needs of member countries. Artificial Islands should be granted the status of an island and ships should respect the lawful security zones set around these islands. New land in the Arctic should be handled by the UN with caution. All efforts should be made to protect the environment of the Arctic first, as climate change and global warming are threats to people worldwide. The UN should monitor and evaluate land claims in the Arctic to prevent any unnecessary conflict. Iraq is not currently interested in artificial islands or their creation, however we do fear the possibility of oil drilling in the Arctic. For this reason, we believe all claims to the Arctic should be evaluated, and all possible intentions to drill should be peacefully monitored. We believe that other countries who are reliant on the oil industry, such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, etc.. will share our concerns.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Iraq is not currently an active competitor in space exploration and development, however we do recognize the importance as well as the danger of shared space exploration. Iraq believes that states/private entities have rights to resources they gather in space within reason, but that the safety of humans on Earth should always be first priority in dealing with space exploration. Iraq stresses the importance of non-appropriation of celestial bodies and the moon, as well the prohibition of nuclear weapons/weapons of mass destruction in space. Military satellites must be monitored to ensure peaceful interaction between all nation states involved in and not involved in space exploration, in accordance to the Registration Convention of 1975. The UN should continue to take necessary measures to prevent the placement of dangerous military weapons in space, as well as to promote peace among nations exploring the unknown frontier. Countries that are currently active in space exploration and the launch of military satellites, such as Russia, China, and the US, may not be as cautious as the remaining members of the UN in the importance of safe space exploration.



# Ireland

India Fuchs | Shelby County HS

**Head of State:** Michael D. Higgins **GDP:** 50,503.42 USD **Population:** 4.595 million

**UN Ambassador:** David Donoghue **Joined UN:** 1955

**Current Member of UNSC:** No **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Alongside other member countries of the European Union, Ireland is adamant towards the EU's needed intensification on efforts to end conflicts in Syria, Sudan, and Libya, as these conflicts are forcing desperate victims to flee their homes, by boarding unsafe boats and risking their lives. The conflicts in the middle east have convulsed the EU, and has at times threatened its solidity. However, the solidity of the EU isn't what is at stake; human lives are at stake, and this is the challenge that we must overcome. Through targeting organized criminals in the Mediterranean, who are preying on vulnerable migrants by extorting large sums of money from desperate people before putting them to sea in ships that are little more than death traps, the risk of losing lives will be reduced (Flanagan, 2016). However, interference in the Mediterranean with Irish and EU supported naval vessels will not be approved by all users of the Mediterranean, or any Middle Eastern countries which do not support outside assistance when it comes to immigration, refugees, and asylum seekers, or by nations affiliated with the EU, but are not in support of aid to refugees.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

As a coastal state with a broad continental shelf, rich fishing grounds and a long coastline, Ireland has a strong interest in the development of clear, comprehensive and universally accepted rules to regulate states' rights and duties in, on and under the seas. The Irish delegation has played an active and leading role during the negotiations on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in particular in relation to the legal regime of the continental shelf, the rules on maritime boundaries and the status of rocks and other islands that cannot support human habitation. Resolutions regarding artificial islands and maritime law must be respectful and clear, so that a consensus may be reached. With association with UNCLOS, Ireland recognizes the different maritime zones, and would prefer these zones to stand. As Ireland is a country which, historically, the sea and its resources have been so important, the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Eamon Gilmore, T.D. brings many of the issues important to Ireland within a letter at the Third UN conference: "Many people may be unaware of the significance of the Law of the Sea Convention and how it regulates all activities in, on or under the world's oceans. The oceans and seas around us serve many functions – as transport routes, fishing grounds, a source of oil and other natural resources. In Ireland's case the ocean brings warm air and a temperate climate that belies our location on the globe. Nowadays we are actively seeking ways of harnessing the energy of its waves and currents. But the world's seas and oceans have also been used for less enlightened purposes – as dumping grounds, for instance. The enormous improvements in technology, particularly since the Second World War, meant that human activity on the seas, much of which had historically been confined to coastal areas, could now extend far out into the oceans. The rights and duties of states were often either outdated or unclear, and the potential for conflict had increased significantly. Moreover, by the 1960s it was widely acknowledged that the oceans' resources were not infinite – and in some extreme cases were already nearing exhaustion – and the view that anything could be harmlessly dissolved in the sea had been widely discredited." With considering Ireland's own position, Ireland's delegates also recognizes the importance of issues that do not directly impact the nation: "At the Conference therefore Ireland had to work not just to promote its own interests but also to help build consensus on the overall package, elements of which were not of direct concern to us.".

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Ireland understands that communication by means of satellites should be available to the nations of the world as soon as practicable on a global and non-discriminatory basis, that outer space shall be used for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, the importance of a global satellite system for providing telecommunications services to all areas of the world, which has contributed to world peace and understanding, recognizes private satellite companies supervised by an intergovernmental organization, which further recognizes the viability of commercial satellites -- the space segment required for international public telecommunications services of high quality and reliability -- and has determined that there is a need for an intergovernmental supervisory organization, to which any State member of the United Nations or the International Telecommunication Union may become a Party, to ensure that the Company fulfills the Core Principles on a continuing basis.



# Israel

Evan Thompson | Brown School

**Head of State:** Benjamin Netanyahu   **GDP:** 36,051.15 (U.S) GDP Per Capita   **Population:** 8.059 million

**UN Ambassador:** Danny Danon   **Joined UN:** May 11, 1949

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

The country of Israel has taken a stance on the issue of Immigration and Refugees to control the countries by building a fence on the Jordanian side of the Israel. This statement was released by the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu in late 2015. As of late, Israel has provided asylum to 100 Syrian children in the wake of the immigration ban issued by current president of the United States, Donald J. Trump. Israel is cautious of granting asylum or citizenship to displaced Muslims in countries such as Syria due to the large anti Semitic belief that Jewish people are subhuman, this has caused for Israel to advocate for securing the borders, as well as intensive vetting of possible immigrants and asylum seekers. Israel has close ties with the united states, by following in the footsteps of the U.S their alliance will remain strong and lack criticism, by lacking in action, Israel will not strain their relationship between the two countries.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

As of June 2016, Israel has proposed to create an five billion dollar artificial island off the coast of the Gaza strip as a tourist magnet. Given this information, Israel is not opposed to the creation of said artificial islands. Regarding the maritime, the country of Israel currently has an agreement with the republic of Cyprus regarding the delineation of an economic zone between the two. The Ministry of Infrastructures, Energy, and Water Resources in Israel has recently uploaded a mission statement regarding maritime law to the United Nations, specifying petroleum rights and the level of clearance behind drilling in certain maritime zones off the coast. Countries in favor of this position would be the Cyprus as the two countries has signed an agreement (Treaty Registration #I-48387), as well as the country of Jordan as the two signed a boundary treaty agreeing to coordinate boundaries (Treaty Registration #35333).

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

The Israel Space Agency page provides the information merely stating that the government hopes to foster academic growth that would place the country at a better position for future space scientists. Later in the article there is mention that the country hopes to boost the economy, enhance the importance of the country and the well being of their citizens. This reflects an outlook that would desire peace over conflict as the well being of the citizens is the clear emphasis of the national stance. Being that there is no issue, Israel would like to see the progression of peaceful space construction, preferably lacking in the creation of armed weaponry. This resolution would field support from most countries as the exploration of space is of scientific pursuits and bringing weapons to the final frontier would only increase hostility that is reality doesn't have to exist. Countries that would support this thesis would include the United States, members of the European Space Agency and the Indian Space Research Organization. The Russian Federal Space agency would not support this idea as the country has notable Anti-Semitic roots and the religious differences would deter the two countries from unifying towards a single goal of demilitarized space exploration.



# Italy

Amelia Carlisle | Rowan County Senior High School

**Head of State:** Sergio Mattarella **GDP:** 35,925.88 USD **Population:** 59.83 million

**UN Ambassador:** Sebastiano Cardi **Joined UN:** 1955

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

My country of Italy is currently knee deep in an immigration crisis. Being a peninsula Italy is especially exposed to immigration issues as we have a more accessible country for migrants to reach. My country has always welcome immigrants with open arms to our country. We send them to "Welcome Centers" upon arrival and even ran the operation 'Mare Nostrum' in 2013 in an effort to further protect immigrant lives. However, there has been a recurring theme of officials not insisting on identification from migrants at such centers, this must stop. It is imperative we look in to who will be in our country. Also, we need to ensure that the people we let in are people who are here to better our country and be constructive members of society. So why we are always open to helping our fellow man we must first protect our natural born citizens and values and we believe this is best achieved through a stricter identification process. Other countries might see issues with our new policies concerning immigration, but we expect to keep friendly ties with our allies, both in the EU and NATO. As for the reaction of fellow UN members we expect there to be no issue as we are only living up to a policy for which we have been negligent and are currently taking no drastic changes until we see fit.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

As a prominent financial ally to China, Italy is inclined to hold up that agreement of friendship. Italy currently is over 1 artificial island, known as Tronchetto, it is currently used as a car park for tourists. My country believes that all agreed upon laws preceding this issue should be upheld until another agreement is mutually decided on. We believe that all laws should be as applicable as possible for present day issues and concerns. Many decades have passed since UNCLOS III has been put into effect and it is inarguable that China has transformed tremendously since the ratification. Under UNCLOS III China does not have the jurisdiction over these islands as there are no "historical precedent" implications set forth in the treaty, thus their actions are illegal. My country chooses peace whenever possible so we are under the current impression that since such hostilities have developed, UNCLOS III should be evaluated and determined if changes are necessary to accommodate modern times. As for the construction of artificial islands we believe that said islands should be used for peaceful/harmless endeavors only and if this is not the current state of these lands action should be taken. Furthermore, all ships should respect "safety zones" set around the islands until another course of action has been agreed on by all parties involved. Concerning the Arctic and its natural resources that have just recently became attainable, Italy would like to see what is best for the environment to take place. Often we forget that we as humans are not the only ones on this planet. Though we do realize that these resources will want to be taken advantage of there needs to be clear and specific guidelines put in place and such guidelines should be fairly agreed upon by all parties. We hope to see that other member states will readily agree with us on this issue of reevaluation.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Italy is proud of the strides we have taken concerning space exploration. Our program, ASI (Italian Space Agency in English). Nationally, the ASI is responsible for both drafting the National Aerospace Plan and ensuring it is carried out. Italy is obviously very invested in space exploration, as such we believe that since modern technology is becoming increasingly more advanced new regulations should be set forth. Many other states have concerns in reference to the militarization of outer space and we believe these concerns should be addressed before catastrophic things occur. It is the Security Council's duty to ensure peace and this issue is no exception. We believe that it is imperative that we work together to maintain peace through agreed upon legislature and specific guidelines for what can and cannot happen. In a perfect world no countries would use this technology maliciously (such as using to spy) but we understand that this is not a perfect world and this issue must be addressed. However, realistically this might not fall under the UN's jurisdiction to regulate so this must be a topic of discussion.



# Japan

Jensen Carnes | Russell County High School

**Head of State:** Shinzo Abe **GDP:** \$4.41 trillion **Population:** 126,323,715

**UN Ambassador:** Mr. Koro Bessho **Joined UN:** 1956

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Due to a shortage of space, but also a need for labor, Japan offers work visas to those willing to come and work. The visa is then passed down to that person's children, but they have no birthright citizenship law. Despite this, if they really want to, they can go through a lengthy naturalization process. As for refugees and asylum seekers, Japan has made a commitment to offer these people protection, and assure that they will not be returned to the place where they would face persecution. That being said, Japan would want to help refugees in any way they possibly can, but they wouldn't support allowing permanent immigration for anyone. Many other countries would probably disagree and say that immigration is needed for the economy, and some would disagree about allowing refugees into the country due to security concerns. The United States and possibly even India would agree with us, but China and South Korea probably would not.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Japan believes that concerning the duty of the carrier, the carrier should be held responsible for any damage or delay of goods. They should also be held responsible for any injuries to any passengers on board. Japan would want to see other countries take responsibility for anything that may happen because of them, accident or not. They also would want regulations set to preserve marine life and for there to be no foreign or unidentified vessels sailing through international waters. The United States would agree, and there have been many disputes between Japan and China concerning this so they would likely disagree. Concerning artificial islands, Japan very much supports this because Japan's land is limited, and it allows them to check China's territorial ambitions. Japan would want to see more artificial islands made in order to have more space for business and population reasons. China does not agree with Japan's stance.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Japan supports space exploration and a recent resolution even states that "Japan's launching of objects into outer space...as well as its development and use of rockets to launch such objects should be limited for peaceful purposes only." Therefore, they don't believe that space exploration should be used for any military purposes whatsoever. In a resolution regarding this issue, Japan would like to see laws restricting countries from using space to strengthen their military. Many European Countries and the United States agree with this view.



# Jordan

Steven Bennett | St. Xavier HS

**Head of State:** King Abdullah   **GDP:** \$86.19 billion USD   **Population:** 8,185,384

**UN Ambassador:** Dr. Sima Sami Bahous   **Joined UN:** 1955

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Jordan is especially welcoming to refugees and immigrants, primarily from other nations from the Arab worldw. Jordan had taken in over 1 million refugees from Syria and Iraq by 2015. It is known to have the highest ratio of refugees to citizens in the world. Jordan has no concrete policies directed toward refugees specifically, but follows many of the UNHCR guidelines. Jordan would want to see other UN member nations take in more Syrian and Palestinian refugees in order to lessen the burden of the huge number of refugees that Jordan supports. Countries, like Germany, that have shown a proclivity towards accepting refugees to lessen the burden on the region would be in support of many of the Jordanian government's stances.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Jordan, as a landlocked nation in the Middle East, would not be directly affected by artificial islands and their effects on maritime law, but would support the stances of it's allies on the issue. Jordan would be opposed to the creation of artificial islands in the South China Sea, especially within the claimed waters outside of Malaysia and Brunei, due to Jordan's friendly relations with these nations. The United States is also known to be opposed to the creation of Chinese artificial islands due to the environmental impacts of the islands, and Jordan also has friendly relations with the United States.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

As a country lacking many space programs, Jordan does not have a huge part in the peaceful space exploration of the future. Colonization of space would likely be lacking much Jordanian involvement, but Jordan would likely take the side of its biggest allies, notable OPEC and Saudi Arabia, as long as the peaceful exploration remained peaceful. It should not include any sort of weapons testing in space or long rang missiles which could be used to incite military conflict.



# Lebanon

Will Stodghill | St. Xavier HS

**Head of State:** Michel Aoun   **GDP:** \$50.81 billion   **Population:** 7.75 million

**UN Ambassador:** Nawaf Salam   **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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## **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Regarding the acceptance of refugees and asylum seekers, Lebanon has intermittently suspended their traditional open-door policy with Syria. Nearly 1.5 million Syrian refugees currently reside in Lebanon in comparison with the 4.5 million native Lebanese. This influx of refugees in Lebanon has caused sanitation problems such as trash build up has also brought about negative effects on the nearly 1.1 million impoverished Lebanese. Lebanon would like to see a resolution proposed that provides aid from other UN countries in lifting their massive refugee burden. Lebanon, an already poor country, cannot handle this influx of refugees which will only grow larger as the conflict in Syria persists. Countries in Central Europe such as Germany and France fear that accepting some of Lebanon's refugees will lead to a torrent of refugees coming across the continent. A resolution diverting refugees would be well received by other neighboring countries to Syria whose own poverty remains their first priority. Also, Lebanon has good relations with Balkan states such as Armenia, Romania, Greece, and Bulgaria which would engender more support.

## **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Regarding maritime law, there has been much dispute over oil and natural gas in the East Mediterranean Sea. Lebanon has problems with Israel in particular in trying to attain these resources in this area of the Mediterranean. Nearly 854 kilometers of overlapping maritime claims with Israel have put a halt to their process of gas exploration. There is much commercial interest in the offshore area near Lebanon from companies such as Chevron, Shell, and Exxon. A resolution aimed at mediating these maritime claims between Israel and Lebanon would be greatly favored by Lebanon. With high public debt and a weak administration, Lebanon is in dire need of an economic boost. Progress in the development of Lebanon's gas potential will provide benefit to the entire region as a whole as it will promote other countries such as Syria to follow suit. A resolution dealing with disputes between Cyrus and Syria would also greatly aid Lebanon in its pursuit of economic stability. In regards to the controversy over artificial islands in the South China Sea, Lebanon has no formal stance and is not directly affected. But Lebanon is a proponent of these artificial islands in that the Lebanese have constructed "Cedar Island," an island shaped like a cedar of Lebanon, which will be used as a tourist resort. This comes with some controversy in that this 8 billion dollar project was started despite debt to Dubai.

## **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Lebanon has no formal stance on the issue of peaceful space exploration in that they possess no major space program. The only true connection to space exploration in the Middle East comes from the United Arab Emirates who recently signed a deal with NASA. In seeing this, Lebanon would likely side with a resolution favoring peaceful cooperation and relations in space exploration. Lebanon, as an ally of the United Arab Emirates, does not wish to get mixed up disputes over space exploration, especially with the U.S. There is a common fear worldwide of the eventual militarization of space and this threat of militarization must be mitigated. Lastly, seeing as Lebanon possessed a little known space program during the Space Race which was started in a science club at the University of Lebanon, Lebanon may soon decide to play a small part in space exploration after seeing one of its fellow Arab allies has signed with NASA. Firstly though, Lebanon must right its internal struggles before it can expand outward into space.



# Nicaragua

Billy Chamberlain | Burgin Independent Schools

**Head of State:** Daniel Ortega   **GDP:** 12.693 billion   **Population:** 6.08 Million

**UN Ambassador:** H. E. Mrs. Maria Rubiales De Chamorro   **Joined UN:** October, 24 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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## **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Immigration to Nicaragua is acceptable with a passport and a proper visa for many countries; however, the Nicaraguan government feels that it is necessary for the economic stability to allow 110 countries to enter without the use of a visa. Most foreigners are required to renew their visa every 3 months; however, the Nicaraguan government faces immigration with an extensive entrance and exiting process. Anyone entering the country without a visa must pay \$10.00 for a tourist card and \$35.00 to exit that is applied to your airline ticket if you cannot provide an exit form or an exit stamp. Also, when entering the country a passport validity must be out by 6 months upon arrival. If a visa is required, it must be updated every 90 days. An extension can be requested, but however, if denied, the person must leave the country and reenter. If the immigrant chooses to stay permanently in the country extensive background checks will be conducted due to past problems. Currently, Nicaragua has accepted 50,000 immigrants. Nicaragua happens to fall on a large migration route for people coming from South America traveling to the United States and Canada. In 1980 there was estimated to be around twenty thousand refugees from El Salvador that we gladly took when repression, economic devastation, civil war and finally, when the United States supported genocide on the Salvadoran people. Around one hundred from Guatemala arrived in the 80's as well for similar reasons. In 2008 Nicaragua signed onto the UN refugee agreements with only keeping a small percentage in refugee camps. Of the refugees in and out of these camps The Ministry of Social Welfare attends to the needs of around four thousand of the refugees. Most of the funds for this are taken care of by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with other donations coming in from supporting religious and solidarity groups around the world. Currently, 95% of applicants that apply for asylum through the UN are granted it. If asylum is granted, they will be interviewed in Nicaragua and finally transported to a holding center. Countries that would support: Russia, Finland, Venezuela, Iran. Countries that would be against: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and the United States

## **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Nicaragua believes that the construction of artificial islands is beneficial to the economy. Currently, there are nine artificial islands being built with the hope that they will drive in the tourist income. These islands will be created in Bluefields Bay taking up 581,442 cubic meters. The islands being built will be made of dredged material from the bay. The building of these islands using dredged material will allow access to the ports in Bluefield. Countries that would support: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Macau, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Malaysia, Netherlands, Panama, Peru/Bolivia, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka Tonga, and United Arab Emirates. Countries that would be against: United States. Nicaragua has had territorial disputes with Colombia, Costa Rica, and Honduras. In the most recent case with Colombia it was over San Andres y Providencia and some other disputes islands, which on November 19th 2012 the ICJ decided that Colombia will remain with control over the area but gave Nicaragua more Maritime territory surrounding the islands with territory. In 1992 Nicaragua was in a decision along with El Salvador and Honduras where Honduras was awarded with the island of El Tigre, and the remaining water space was to be shared with all three counties. In 2010 there was a dispute with Costa Rica over 22 miles of the San Juan River, despite claims from both sides that military troops entered each other's territory, Costa Rica would keep the territory because Nicaragua violated the territorial sovereignty agreement along with compensating Costa Rica for damages done. Nicaragua will look toward only using Maritime law only for resolving border issues through peaceful interaction and not taking up arms and going to war. Countries that would support: Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Iran, Cuba, Taiwan and Venezuela. Countries that would be against: United States

## **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Nicaragua is pushing towards space exploration with wide open arms. In 2012, an agreement was signed with Russia to cooperate on space exploration and activity. In 2015, a ground satellite base that will permit operation of a system similar to GPS for peaceful uses such as mitigating natural disasters (Glonass) was constructed. Also Nicaragua is one of the 100 countries employing the mission of the Space Generation Advisory Council, with the support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, provides education on peaceful space missions to youth. In 2005 Nicaragua was in favor of seven texts about preventing outer space arms race, which were approved, when the United States was against it saying that there wasn't an arms race so there is no reason that the problem to be addressed and there "Peaceful exploration" include defence activities seeking national security. Countries that would support: Russia, Iran, Taiwan, Colombia, and Venezuela. Countries that would be against: United States



## Peru

Sophia Stapleton | Walton Verona HS

**Head of State:** Pedro Pablo Kuczynski   **GDP:** 6,661.59 USD   **Population:** 30.38 million

**UN Ambassador:** Gustavo Meza-Cuadra Velásquez   **Joined UN:** October 31, 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

There are big differences between a migrant, a refugee, and an asylum seeker. A migrant is someone who leaves their home country for economic reasons. A refugee is someone who has been approved for protection. Lastly, an asylum seeker is one who is fleeing their country in order to avoid conflict and seek protection. An asylum seeker may be considered a refugee during war times according to the UN. This is highly controversial and situational. The refugees, in countries such as Syria, are being abused and highly mistreated. The UN should help those refugees, we need to step in and help the poor, suffering, group. We are all united here. We are all part of the United Nations, we should all contribute to helping our brothers and sisters. The UN should be able to get involved with the EU. The EU is trying to limit the amount of immigration and refugees they receive, however the UN is trying to help the refugees. Other countries like the US impact the goals of the UN by only allowing a certain amount of immigrants. Canada, however, is accepting more and more refugees. If there comes a time when the Syrian Civil War or another conflict occurs, there needs to be a protocol for dealing with the refugees. There should be a system in place that all UN members must take action in helping with the refugees. We could have a system where each country homes a certain number of refugees. The number would be based off of the space available and each country's ability to comfortably take care of the refugees. Countries who want to refuse refugees, like the United States, will be upset with the idea of rationing out the refugees if needed. Others will gladly abide and become a home for those who need it.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The maritime laws should be updated to accommodate changes in technology by keeping each country in check. Every so often the territories of each country should be updated to make sure the information is correct. Once the information is updated the history of the land is irrelevant. Even though China thinks they may have owned some territory at one point in history does not mean it is theirs now. The Convention on Law of the Sea should be updated every five years. Due to the quick advances of technology if we check the guidelines of the treaty every five or so years then it will update along with technology. If we wait too long to update the treaty then technology will advance too quickly for the treaty to limit it enough. The construction of artificial islands should not be allowed. We should be preserving what we have. Instead of adding new islands we should save the ones we already have. However, in the case that artificial islands are to be allowed, there should be guidelines and regulation. They should only be allowed a certain size and only allowed to be constructed on that country's territory. The UN should delegate a team of men from various countries to police and approve the islands. Artificial islands, while man-made, are still nature. Therefore they should be treated like nature and be considered a real island. Ships should respect the safety zones of the island just as they respect the safety zones of nature-made islands. When a volcano erupts it can sometimes create a new island, or "new land." In the case that this happens, whoever owns the territory that that land is from, gets to claim it. The arctic has been fought over for years. The Security Council should evaluate the land and claim it as national territory. Instead giving it to just one part of the country or splitting it up over a few countries, they should claim it as national territory. The UN should take responsibility for taking care of the arctic environment. Some countries may like this idea and some may not. The bigger countries such as China and the United States want to ration this territory out because they would get a lot of good land in that case. However, most smaller countries would like to have neutral ground there.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

The states and private entities should share some of the resources they gather in space. Exploration is for everyone and the knowledge should be shared with everyone. The military satellites in space need to be restricted to not be able to launch strikes on other countries in the short time it takes. Countries should not be able to spy, monitor, or strike another country with satellites without reasonable cause and approval. The Security Council can maintain peace in space by assuring there is only peaceful use of the satellites in space. Each satellite launched must be UN approved and monitored. The UN should establish agreements regarding the exploration of space. They should agree to not use satellites to unknowingly spy on each other or use for military use against each other. Space exploration can be done in teamwork in some cases. Some countries may be opposed to working together, most likely the bigger countries such as Russia and the United States.



# Russian Federation

Rowan Kenning | Brown School

**Head of State:** Vladimir Putin   **GDP:** 1.3 Trillion USD   **Population:** 143 Million

**UN Ambassador:** Pyotr Illichov   **Joined UN:** 1945 (Soviet Union) or 1991 (Russian Federation)

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes   **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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## **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Russia is the second highest importer of immigrants, second only to the United States. Most of the immigrants to Russia are from nearby, former-Soviet countries (such as Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan) with knowledge of Russian language and culture. Because of this, little effort has been put into assimilating immigrants. Many immigrants flee their home countries in order to flee poverty or ethnic violence. When it comes to refugees, Russia is on the opposite end of the spectrum. As of April 2016, Russia has only granted refugee status to 2 migrants (temporary refugee status is slightly more accessible). According to Oxfam International, Russia should contribute \$717 million to the burden of the crisis, of which they have only given 1%. OCHA reports that Russia has only donated \$6.8 million to the UN, representing a mere 0.1% of total contributions. Overall, Russia is not trying to receive refugees, and has taken minimal effort to grant refugee status, although it has given some university scholarships. Russia would like to see a policy where it does not have to contribute significantly to the resettlement or support of refugees. However, Russia is obviously not opposed to accepting immigrants, as their population ages. Other countries might react negatively to the isolationist approach of Russia, however growing right-wing movements in several countries may agree. Many European countries and perhaps the US would oppose Russia. However, other Asian nations might support Russia.

## **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Russia has taken part in military exercises alongside China, including island-capturing maneuvers. Recent competition over the South China Sea, largely between China and US-backed nations such as Japan and the Philippines, has made the region the embodiment of maritime dispute. In the context of this recent competition over island rights and aquatic proprietorship in the South China Sea, as well as possessing their own artificial islands, these joint exercises display the Russian stance on the issue. Russia has sided with China on other related matters, such as desiring third-parties (alluding to the US) to stay out of the disagreement and denouncing a decision from The Hague condemning China's claim to the region. The conclusion can be drawn that Russia would like to see a Chinese-controlled South China Sea, as long as it didn't impede the Russian navy. This result would be supported by China, yet opposed by many others such as the US, the Philippines, Japan, and much of the UN.

## **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Russia has been a major player in space exploration since the beginning. Following fierce competition during the Cold War and the ultimate "defeat" by the United States in the space race, the Russian Federation has become an active contributor to space exploration. The Russian Federation was a major contributor to the ISS, being one fifth of participating organizations and owning almost half of the structure. Peace aboard the international station has survived disputes such as the Crimean affair. Exploration past the 2024 is likely to ally more with Chinese space programs. The two countries have met on the subject, predicting explorations to both the Moon and Mars. Additionally, China might purchase rockets from Russia as the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia calls China's space program practically impossible without Russian equipment. Russia would like to see a proposal that advances space exploration, which has been a major interest of the country in the past. It would, however, likely prefer to deal with China over the US due to recent tensions. A proposal from the Russian Federation would likely be supported by China, and might garner support from American and European space agencies based on the proposal itself.



## Rwanda

Preston Crump | Montgomery County HS

**Head of State:** Paul Kagame   **GDP:** 638.67   **Population:** 11.78 million

**UN Ambassador:** Mathilde Mukantabana   **Joined UN:** 18 September 1962

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Our country promotes peaceful immigration laws. Rwanda does provide work and student visas for those interested in visiting our country. Our country is currently opening its doors to Burundi refugees. Over 200,000 refugees have come into Rwanda from surrounding countries. We are happy to accept all surrounding refugees. We are aware of the turmoil going on around in other countries. We have, in the past, had many problems like the countries around us. In the past, countries did not accept Rwandan refugees, so now we would like to turn that ideology around and accept those in need.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Since we are not on the coast of any ocean or large body of water we do not concern ourselves with Maritime Law. We do follow it to the extent of which we can.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Unfortunately our country does not have the financial stability to provide for space exploration. As nice as it would be to provide for space exploration, our country's finances are appropriated towards other institutions. Our primary focus is on providing food and shelter for our citizens rather than focusing on space exploration.



## Saudia Arabia

Braeden Salazar | St. Xavier HS

**Head of State:** Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud   **GDP:** 1.900 trillion   **Population:** 28.83 million

**UN Ambassador:** Abdallah Al-Mouallimi   **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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**Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Not Available

**Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Not Available

**Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Not Available



# Scotland

Aryn Adkins | Belfry HS

**Head of State:** Nicola Sturgeon   **GDP:** \$233.332 billion   **Population:** 5.295 million

**UN Ambassador:** Not a UN Member   **Joined UN:** Not a UN member

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

As Scotland continues to request it be a sovereign state, their involvement in assisting other parts of the world population never fades. The Scottish government wants to demonstrate to the world that the emerging nation of Scotland can and will assist those who seek refuge from their homeland. Although Scotland is part of the United Kingdom, they have chosen to take a more open stance on the subject of accepting refugees and welcomes them with open arms as they come to seek a new life. This, however, does not mean that Scotland does not have any intention on limiting some of the refugee numbers because the safety of the citizens is Scotland's primary goal.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Artificial islands have not played a major role in Scotland because of their lack of jurisdiction as compared to more powerful countries, and sovereign states. The Scottish government does agree that the UN does have authority to set up these boundaries and precedents in order for most countries to economically prosper. The belief that all economies should have the chance to thrive in our newly globalized world resonates with the beliefs of the country. These islands allow our countries to unify under a stabilizing economy that would eventually balance out the world economies.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Because the government of Scotland's main issue is creating a legitimate nation that will be recognized by other nations, Scotland does not wish to participate in space exploration at all. The government does agree that government satellites should not be used for spying on other countries because we should not be in competition with each other, but trying to keep peaceful dialogue and action between nations. Scotland stands firm in the fact that focus should be shifted toward environmental conservation and the people in which they serve.



# Solomon Islands

Mallorey Bell | South Oldham HS

**Head of State:** Manasseh Sogavare **GDP:** 1.16 billion USD **Population:** 583,591

**UN Ambassador:** H.E. Collin Beck **Joined UN:** 1978

**Current Member of UNSC:** No **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

From what I can tell since February of 2010 the Solomon Islands has been decently involved with the UNHCR which is the UN's refugee agency. They have committed to safe immigration and refugee practices. It seems a little bit like Solomon Islands has refugees that are being sent to other countries rather than having asylum for anybody based on the small square mileage of the country. Along with the fact that smaller islands in this group are having to relocate due to weather related issues even though weather issues does not qualify one person as a refugee. The Solomon Islands has made efforts in support of the UN's refugee agency and continues to do so. The Solomon Islands has close relations with both Britain and the United States, being that their government system is based from Britain and that the United States helped them gain independence.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Well considering that The Solomon Islands is in the ocean and has to abide by the Maritime laws and specifically deal with Artificial Islands I would say that they agree with the issue at hand and don't have a solution to the issue at hand. Most countries aren't a set of multiple islands that abide to Archipelagic boundaries and maritime laws, so there is not much other countries can really say in regards to Artificial islands and Maritime laws.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

The Solomon Islands doesn't have any research towards space exploration and supports Britain and The United States in their continuous safe and peaceful space exploration endeavor's. I would say that most countries would agree with the safe and peaceful space exploration and that The Solomon Islands has a positive and agreeable view on the issue at hand.



## Somalia

Auriauna Akrami | South Oldham HS

**Head of State:** Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed **GDP:** 145.06 USD **Population:** 10.5 million

**UN Ambassador:** Ban Ki-moon **Joined UN:** 1960

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Somalia is not known to be an immigrant nation. They have many people leaving to seek shelter in other nations and most of the time, they are not allowed into those countries. This is happening in America right now. America is not accepting somalian refugees. Somalians majority of the time are seeking refuge in other nations so people do not seek refuge in their nation.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Somalia does not have a firm position on this topic.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Somalia does not have a firm position on this topic.



# Sudan

Brogan Dice | Montgomery County HS

**Head of State:** Omar al-Bashir    **GDP:** 97.156 billion USD    **Population:** 40,234,882

**UN Ambassador:** Daffa-Alia Elhag Ali Osman    **Joined UN:** 12-11-56

**Current Member of UNSC:** No    **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Sudan has just recently finished a civil war which left the country torn to pieces and even created a second nation in the south of the country. The government in Sudan is currently still in a corrupt state and lacks the proper guidance to try and move past the struggles that lead to the second civil war. Due to this Sudan is not receiving a large amount of immigrants or Asylum seeking refugees. Quite the contrary is taking place; Sudanese citizens are leaving the country and seeking asylum in fellow African Nations. In the last two decades alone there have been 3.2 million people displaced in Sudan. Another 375,000 Sudanese have successfully found refuge in neighboring countries such as Ethiopia. When you combine the internally displaced people with the refugee population we see that nearly 10% of the population has been displaced. A possible resolution to solve this issue would be something similar to affirmative action but more addressed to refugees, the Syrian refugees are being accepted at nearly double the rate.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The Sudanese government is in the midst of a rebirth following their second civil war. The government set in place is currently corrupt and being lead by a militaristic leader. This has lead to the country being left in immense turmoil for years; as you could expect this lead to the delay of the development of the country. Due to the slow development, the Sudan has not had any experience with artificial islands. Maritime law has become less needed as of late off the coast of Sudan due to increased protection from international navies and armed private security guards. A potential resolution for this issue would be for the United Nations to potentially place UN ambassadors in the government to observe the government and ensure that the leaders in place are providing the best opportunities for the Sudanese citizens.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Sadly the country of Sudan does not have the financial capability to explore the possibilities of space travel. We lack a sufficient amount of a paved roadway so the idea of travelling into space exceeds our capability. A resolution that would help our country is a bill that promotes the improvement of infrastructure of our nation.



# Switzerland

Nikolai Wasdovich | Jeffersonville High School

**Head of State:** Doris Leuthard **GDP:** 685.4 Billion USD **Population:** 8.081 million

**UN Ambassador:** Paul R. Seger **Joined UN:** 2002

**Current Member of UNSC:** No **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

The Swiss delegation does not desire to accommodate any more immigrants and certainly does not want to take in Syrian refugees as Switzerland is currently facing a problem with the mass amount of illegal immigration in this country. In 2015, the Swiss government projected to admit 29,000 asylum seekers but by October of that year, Switzerland had already expanded its annual intake to approximately 30,000.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The delegation of Switzerland does not recognize further territorial expansion by the building of artificial islands. The swiss delegation recognizes the International Maritime Organization's Article 1 in respect to shipping boundaries.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

The Swiss delegation sees for space to be explored in a peaceful, educational manner. The delegation recognizes the scientific benefit of space explorations but condemns the use of space to spy or launch missiles. Anything of the order of hostility or threat is condemned by the swiss delegation. As a member of the European Space Agency (ESA), the delegation of switzerland encourages worldwide cooperation of sciences and programs to further the bounds of mankind.



# Syria

Cameron Luker | St. Xavier HS

**Head of State:** Bashar al-Assad    **GDP:** \$59.957 billion    **Population:** 17,064,854

**UN Ambassador:** Bashar Jaafari    **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No    **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

As one of the largest sources of refugees in the world, Syria often creates more problems than solutions when it comes to the refugee problem. President Assad's regime has committed various human rights abuses such as dropping illegal barrel bombs, torture, and suppressing freedom of expression. In a recent poll of Syrian refugees, it was reported that 78% of them left because of actions taken by the Assad led Syrian Army. The Syrian government has made getting UN humanitarian aid to refugees nearly impossible by forcing supply trucks to take hazardous routes full of checkpoints where theft by Syrian soldiers is common. Assad has said that some of the Syrian refugees are terrorists, but makes no attempts to track them down or even keep them within the country. While most Arab countries are united in most world affairs, the Syrians refugee conflict has created many enemies for Assad's regime around the globe, including the Middle East. Germany, the USA, France, the UK, NATO, Egypt, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia all oppose Assad's regime due to its human rights violations, with Turkey and the EU taking in many refugees. The Russian Federation, China, North Korea, Iraq and Iran all support Assad's regime, and many have taken in very few if any refugees. Currently Iran and Russia are Syria's closest allies, although the Civil War has made it a very isolated country in the global community. Syria would support a resolution that would bring a swift end to the war, thus stopping the flow of refugees, by forcing nations such as the US, France, and Germany from sending military aid to rebels, both ISIS and Kurdish. This will be opposed by most western countries, but would be supported by the Russian Federation and Iran.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Although Syria does not currently have any artificial islands, one of its largest trading partners, China, does. Syria has recently developed good diplomatic relations with China, so its position would be supportive of China's view. Since China is currently building islands to build up its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the South China Sea, Syria would support the idea that artificial islands should carry the same 200 nautical mile radius EEZ's as natural islands, although this is not allowed by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Supporting China in this position would strengthen their diplomatic ties, which Syria desperately needs due to its political and economic strife, while also working against the US, who would lose valuable trade routes to Southeast Asian ports if China's EEZ was extended due to recognition of its artificial islands. This would disrupt the trade of the proposed TPP, which excludes China and does not include any of Syria's major allies.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Syria set up a space program in 2014 with the goal of doing research work, but due to most colleges being closed, skilled workers and scientists having fled the nation, and poor economic stability, the program does not yet have launch capabilities or any real research ability. The space program could be able to launch satellites in the future, which would be able to be used for telecommunication or military intelligence use. Since Syria is currently developing its space program, it would support the UN Outer Space Treaty, citing that space shall be free for use by all states. While this treaty is generally supported by all UN member states, Syria may come under scrutiny from the US, NATO, and other anti-Assad entities that the space program will be used to gather intelligence about rebel forces using satellite technology. Syria would maintain that the space program is purely for research work.



# Taiwan

Andrew Hays | Russell County High School

**Head of State:** Tsai Ing-wen **GDP:** 31,900.00 USD **Population:** 23.52 million

**UN Ambassador:** Liu Chieh **Joined UN:** 1971

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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## **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Immigration policy is one of the best ways Taiwan can revolutionize its workforce and simultaneously address both demographic and economic challenges. Until now, it has been underutilized by the Taiwanese government.

## **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The Coast Guard Administration of the Executive Yuan, is charged with maintaining law and order, protecting the resources of the territorial waters of the Republic of China, which surrounds Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, Matsu Islands, Green Island, Orchid Island, Dongsha Islands, and Nansha Islands as well as providing a first line of defense along coastal areas against smugglers and illegal immigrants. The CGA is considered a civilian law enforcement agency under the administration of the Executive Yuan, though during emergencies it may be incorporated as part of the Republic of China Armed Forces. The Coast Guard Administration is headed by one minister and three deputy ministers. The CGA includes eight departments, one office and five task forces, as well as a Maritime Patrol Directorate General and a Coastal Patrol Directorate General. Its jurisdiction covers the waters surrounding Kinmen, Matzu, Penghu, and the main island of Taiwan to ensure proper protection of the 1,819.8 kilometers coastline and 540,000 square kilometers of "Blue Territory," which is 15 times larger than the island of Taiwan.

## **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

The National Space Organization (NSPO; formerly known as the National Space Program Office) is the national civilian space agency of Taiwan under the auspices of the ROC (Taiwan) Ministry of Science and Technology. NSPO is involved in the development of space exploration, satellite construction and development as well as related technologies and infrastructure (including the FORMOSAT series of Earth observation satellites) and related research in aeronautics, quantum physics, materials science, aerospace engineering, remote sensing, astrophysics, atmospheric science, information science, space weapons, a Taiwanese manned spaceflight program and the deployment of space-based weapons for the defense of national security in Taiwan. Taiwan has also had few collaborative projects mainly with countries closer to them like China. As well as having an assignment with the U.S. back in April 2006 called FORMOSAT. A name derived from Formosa and Satellite. In other words Taiwan has had many experiences with cooperation and would most likely have no problem with ensuring peaceful space exploration.



# United Kingdom

Austin Dillon | Belfry HS

**Head of State:** Theresa May **GDP:** 2.678 trillion USD **Population:** 64.1 million

**UN Ambassador:** Matthew Rycroft **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Currently, the world is faced with a dire refugee crisis; however, the United Nations has no business regulating the influx of immigrants and refugees to other nations. Yes, the United Kingdom recognizes the perils and tribulations of these human beings, but a lack of adequate vetting resources leads to the necessity of slow and structured entry. The United Nations' responsibility is to the entire human race, and it cannot protect one demographic while at the same time endangering another. In the United Kingdom, refugees have committed heinous crimes against citizens, and while this is only a small fraction of refugees, it cannot be ignored. Finally, the U.K. sees it pertinent that the stigma surrounding the very real threat of Islamic extremist terrorists entering nations as refugees be broken. It is not racist to protect our citizens. That is why the United Kingdom proposes that a U.N.-controlled safe zone be established within Syria in order to provide needed protection to refugees while at the same time considering the national security of U.N. member nations. The U.K. also stands behind its ally the United States and its plan to enact "extreme vetting". Support for our position likely will come from the United States and Israel, though other countries, even our allies, will likely oppose the U.K.'s stance. These nations could include: Germany, Australia, Canada, and many Middle-Eastern nations. It is past time to stop ignoring the possible threat that ill-motivated refugees pose. This Council is about security of all humans, not just those humans making headlines.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The United Kingdom is alarmed by the expansion of China into the South China Sea, a clear violation of international law. Furthermore, its placement of missiles and other defenses on the artificial islands built in these waters poses a substantial threat to surrounding areas. However, it is pertinent that no military conflicts spark over this expansion. The U.N. has an obligation to open a dialogue between China and the surrounding Philippines and Southeast Asian nations in order to facilitate a compromise which is both advantageous and legal. The further construction of artificial islands should be monitored and held accountable to international law. As for the Arctic Region, the U.N. should not handle "new land" and evaluate Arctic land claims. Those disputes should be settled between individual nations, and the U.N. should simply be a mediator of negotiation. Opposition for our position will likely come from China, though most surrounding Asian nations will support stopping the imperialist Chinese expansion.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Due to recent advancements in the way of space exploration, especially with the rise of private companies like SpaceX and current astronomical discoveries, the U.K. maintains the strong position that space exploration and resource collection should be free and unbound. If governments or private entities are willing to invest the time, money, and resources to harvest the bounties within the final frontier, they should be able to do so without interference, and these states and entities should have exclusive rights to their newly acquired resources. As for military satellites, their implementation should be monitored for possible abuse, but should not be restricted by the United Nations. The Security Council of the U.N. can maintain peace despite a militarizing cosmos by opening a peaceful and transparent dialogue between nations, especially those which have large military assets.



# United States of America

Austin Harne | Casey County HS

**Head of State:** Donald J. Trump **GDP:** \$18.56 trillion **Population:** 323,995,528

**UN Ambassador:** Nikki Haley **Joined UN:** 24-10-45

**Current Member of UNSC:** Yes **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

Just as there is a stark difference in the definitions of immigrants and illegal aliens, there is a difference between immigrants and refugees. As pointed out in the background information, the position on each of these, by the United States, has changed over the years and even more since the election of President Donald J. Trump. While we, the United States, see no problem with the UN definition of the word refugees, it should be said that under our new leadership, we are a nation that is devoted to taking care of our own before we continue to take on the burden of others. As Michael Ignatieff and his collaborators point out in his white paper, *The United States and the Syrian Refugee Crisis: A Plan of Action*, "Any refugee policy of the United States must strengthen, not weaken the security of its own citizens". This statement validates President Trump's indefinite Syrian refugee ban and his seven-country immigration suspension. When it comes to the mistreatment and/or abuse of refugees by asylum states/nations, let's face the reality of the situation. What can the UN do about it? Nothing. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization that promotes international co-operation. It is a replacement for the ineffective League on Nations that is ineffective. So, what can it do to a country that is found guilty of mistreating/abusing the refugees that arrive at their borders seeking asylum? Embarrass them politically, send firm words/letters to their leaders with consequences they can't enforce, and in a statement of reality – nothing. Their jurisdiction is non-existent and their power is only as good as the bond between our world leaders' political agendas. Their strength lies within their Millennium Development Goals as they are globally acceptable goals for every country.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

In regards to the construction of artificial islands, any such man-made actions outside of the specific jurisdiction limits of the twelve-mile territorial sea limits the two hundred-mile Exclusive Economic Zone shall be prohibited regardless of their intended purposes. In its effort to stay relevant, the convention and the guidelines set within should be updated annually. As jurisdiction of these artificial islands goes to the nearest coastal state within two hundred nautical miles, so does the jurisdiction of "new land" created by climate change or other factors. The control of "new land" that falls within the jurisdiction zone of two or more countries shall be subject to council majority decision based on the economic stability and capabilities of each country. In regards to the land claims of the Arctic, the United States is working through bilateral agreements and promoting multilateral councils to help resolve issues/disputes. As for the UN Security Council, they should evaluate the claims of each country and put forth an unbiased report on the subject, however, the reality is that they can only promote peace in the area, they can't enforce their findings or decisions.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

As noted by the Fourth Committee, the exploration of space and the application of space technologies should be for the benefit of all mankind, and military use of outer space would undermine international peace and security. Further noting, space is a common domain of humanity and it should only be used for the betterment of all. We, the United States, feel that the use of outer space should be limited to exploration and un-militarized satellites used to assist and provide services for the advancement of all peoples/nations in a non-threatening or harmful way. In regards to the UN Security Council, we have no faith in any effort they can put forth to arrange agreements or maintain peace in space.



## Vatican City

Carter Codell | Craft Academy

**Head of State:** Giuseppe Bertello   **GDP:** \$21 million   **Population:** 840

**UN Ambassador:** Permanent Observer Archbishop Bernardito Auza   **Joined UN:** 1964

**Current Member of UNSC:** No   **Past UNSC Membership:** No

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

The Vatican City supports taking in refugees and wants other countries to do the same. As the Washington Post reported in September 2015, Pope Francis called on other European countries to take in refugees. Later that month, Reuters reported that the Vatican took in their first Syrian refugee family. They said that the Vatican plans to take another family in at a later time. Countries like the UK, Sweden, France, Germany, Italy, and Greece are accepting refugees and support the Vatican's views. The US is in the process of denying refugees, so the US is a country who oppose the Vatican's position.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

The Vatican City does not own any artificial islands and do not have any maritime claims. This is mostly because they are a landlocked country. The Vatican has not released any official statements on their views on the issue of maritime laws and the creation of artificial islands. The Vatican is likely to support any country that builds artificial islands for the good of humanity, because that country would be "helping thy neighbor" as said in the Bible.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

The Catholic News Agency reported on an official statement made by the Vatican in 2015: "It is of utmost importance that the opening of outer space for scientific and peaceful research be for the benefit of us all." It continued, "The Earth, the common home of the whole human family, is entrusted to us to be, as the Bible says, 'cultivated' and made 'fruitful,' with the responsibility to take care of it, the harmony of celestial bodies and their relationship with the Earth condition the rhythm of our life and even our daily activities." The statement ended with a call for an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space to ensure safety. Generally, most countries want to be and already are peaceful in space. For years now the US and Russia have worked together to advance science. The only country that might not want to be peaceful is North Korea.



# Venezuela

Dulce Hillmann | Villa Madonna Academy

**Head of State:** Nicolás Maduro **GDP:** 509.97 USD **Population:** 31,779,128

**UN Ambassador:** Darío Ramírez Carreño **Joined UN:** 1945

**Current Member of UNSC:** No **Past UNSC Membership:** Yes

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### **Issue 1: Immigration, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

In 2016, the number of applications for Venezuelan asylum seekers increased by 168% making it one of the top nations to have asylum seekers. Between October 2015 to June 2016, the number of applications received by the US was 10,221 compared to the year before which was 3,810. It excludes those who are in the process of being deported. The United States is the top destination for Venezuelan emigrants, with Spain coming in second. There are about 225,000 Venezuelan born emigrants living in the U.S. Some of which have lived here many years. In 2015, Venezuela was one of the top ten countries with emigrants who have overstayed their visas within the United States. Spain is home to around 150,000 Venezuelan emigrants. From January to May 2016, 1,040 applied for asylum in Spain. This exceeded the total of 790 the year prior. Columbia is another country where Venezuelan emigrants go. In August 2016, Nicolas Maduro, the President of Venezuela, along with his counterpart in Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, reopened the border between Venezuela and Columbia to crack down on the smugglers. It was previously closed in 2015 in attempt to stop smuggling across the borders and to crack down on emigrants who moved from Colombia to Venezuela and vice versa. Soldiers in towns on the border began doing house-to-house searches to check identity papers looking for Colombian citizens, even if they had lived there for years. More than 1,000 people were deported back to Columbia. The smuggling of goods and oil has caused the value of money, goods, and oil to decline by 70%. Citizens would have to take bags of money to the store to buy everyday household items because of the decline. This put Venezuela into an economic crisis. When the borders opened, there was a flood of Venezuelan immigrants who passed through into Colombia to get food, medicine, and other basics because of the economic crisis. The hospitals in Columbia were well stocked with medicines and other resources so many sick citizens in Venezuela tried to cross the border to get to the hospitals. Many of them died from the closing of the border for not receiving necessary treatment. This past December the border was closed again for a 72-hour period to switch all 100 bolivar notes with coins of the same face value to stop the "mafia" who were smuggling notes out of the country. By the time the mafia left the country the notes would have no value. Overall Maduro does not have a good view about immigration. He does not like people entering or leaving Venezuela. That is why he closed it in 2015. If there was a resolution about immigration, Nicolas Maduro would most likely want a resolution that has to do with no immigrants leaving the country as well as emigrants out. He may also like something that has to do with cracking down on the smuggling. The citizens of both Venezuela and Colombia, on the other hand, would like a resolution letting them be able to leave and allowing others to enter the country. Juan Manuel Santos would most likely be in agreement with Maduro as they had made deals about opening and closing borders in the past. I do not think that many other countries would object to a resolution having to do with the ban on immigration. The United States, which is the number one place Venezuelan immigrants go, is in the process of deporting illegal immigrants.

### **Issue 2: Artificial Islands & Maritime Law**

Isla Aves is a Caribbean dependency of Venezuela. There have been many disputes on whose territory is between neighboring islands such as Dominica and other European islands like the Netherlands. The reason for control of this small island for Venezuela and Dominica is that whoever controls the island also controls the ocean around it and all the resources that come with it which includes about 20% of the world's natural gas resources. Venezuela has remained in control of the island by building a military base there. Venezuela has embraced maritime safety or maritime public law, including SOLAS, MARPOL, COLREG, and STWC. It has also embraced the CLC and the Fund Convention which involves the liability of oil pollution. This is important as Venezuela has been one of the top oil production countries until the past few years. It has not adopted the Convention on the Law of the Sea, and "private" maritime law conventions that must do with collisions, bills of lading, salvage, limitation of liability and arrest of vessels. Although the legislation includes many principles and in some instances specific provisions of the Convention of the Law of the Sea and the "private" maritime law conventions. In a resolution, Venezuela would like to see the creation of a new maritime judicial system that includes specialized maritime courts and a new expeditious, reliable and specialized maritime procedure with oral trials. This has been talked about before but has not been put into action. For the most part I do not think many other countries would disagree with this resolution as it is just holding those accountable which is ironic considering the condition Venezuela is in. I think most countries would support this resolution because this isn't a threat to other countries and Venezuela would not be a threat to others considering the oil production has been the lowest since 2003.

### **Issue 3: Ensuring Peaceful Space Exploration**

Venezuela supports ensuring peaceful space exploration. Venezuela is one of 84 members in the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which is an ad Hoc committee. This committee was formed in 1959 with the original members being Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. This committee is one of the largest that pertains to the UN. "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." This committee oversees 5 treaties and 5 principles of outer space. Venezuela would want to see in a resolution regarding peaceful space exploration a legal way to continue explorations and how it benefits humanity. For example, a resolution may state that the committee's involvements in disaster responses as well as plans to potentially stop or deflect a natural disaster pertaining to space. Those who are part of this committee would mostly share the same views as Venezuela as it is the common goal for all members of the committee. Those who don't support this position are those who are not part of the committee. The current members of the

committee are Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Germany, Hungary, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Viet Nam. The resolutions would have to go along with the 5 treaties created by COPUOS which have to do with "freedoms of explorations, arms control, non-appropriation of space by anyone country, liability for damage of space objects, safety of those in space such as astronauts and spacecrafts, prevention of harmful interference with space activity and environment, notification and registration of space activities, scientific investigations and the use of natural resources in space, and settlement disputes." The big emphasis of the treaty's is devoted to enhancing the well-being of earth and all life