

**Cleveland Council on
WORLD AFFAIRS**



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Position Papers for:

General Assembly, 4

Delegation from: the Commonwealth of Australia
Represented by: Elyria Catholic High School

Position Paper for the SPECPOL

The issues before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee are: Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line; and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. Australia is committed to the free and fair use of space for all nations and continuing international cooperation beyond the Karman Line and hopes for

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line

The Commonwealth of Australia believes in the fair and free use of space for all nations and strongly supports international collaboration in space, such as the International Space Station. As the space-based economy continues to grow in importance globally, Australia advocates for the continuing cooperation of countries and private companies in the development of infrastructure beyond Earth's atmosphere. Australia's dedication to cooperation with the international community can be seen in recent legislation reaffirming support for past agreements.

As a nation with a burgeoning space industry, regulated by the recently chartered Australian Space Agency, Australia recognizes the importance of cooperation in a fair international economy and will continue to support such agreements as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space. In accordance these agreements, Australia will continue to closely regulate its own public and private space operations so as to maintain the spirit of cooperation in space. It is especially important that all of space remains open to all nations.

While the Commonwealth of Australia understands the domestic economic importance of space technologies, it remains necessary that all nations have the equal opportunity to establish these technologies. Furthermore, as stated in Outer Space Treaty, all space activities should be for the benefit of all countries. In particular, as the moon becomes more important to space commerce, it must remain free and unclaimed by any one nation. As such, the Australian delegation does not support any projects for a moon base that is owned by a single nation, such as NASA's gateway. Instead, Australia would like to bring to the committee's attention the Moon Village Association (MVA). The MVA seeks to foster international collaboration and discussion between the public and private sectors on lunar colonization and activity. The Moon Village would be a joint project between global governments and companies that would work together on projects to establish an infrastructure on the moon that could support the future of the global economy. The international community should condemn any projects that seek to exclude any nation from its use. Furthermore, the Commonwealth of Australia calls upon SPECPOL to adopt a plan in the model of the Moon Village that is based in cooperation between public and private sectors in order to make commerce beyond the Karman Line free, fair, and beneficial to all nations.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

As an environmentally aware country, Australia is in strong agreement with creating a safe way of disposing hazardous nuclear waste in a way that will not harm civilians or the environment. As more countries are using more nuclear energy and creating radioactive materials from scientific research and industrial, agricultural and medical applications, there needs to be a set way of how to discard these materials. Australia requests that other countries see how protecting the environment is a necessity and important practice for a country.

Australia already has many practices to dispose of nuclear waste safely and encourage others to join their practice or showing them more eco-friendly options. The procedure for disposing of waste starts at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation where radioactive waste is classified. There, the waste is sorted into three categories, low, intermediate and high; this is based on how much radiation it emits; Australia does not create high level waste. After classification, it is moved in secure vehicles and transported to the nuclear waste facility. This practice not only secures the safety of civilians but secures the environment.

Australia's main source of radioactive materials come from its scientific research and industrial, agricultural and medical applications. They do not participate in the practice of nuclear energy so they do not create or have high levels of radioactivity. As of now, there is no national facility to manage the waste so the waste is stored by ANSTO at more than 100 locations. These locations are just temporary as the government is attempting to find a place that is in a geologically stable areas with low population density and not prone to flooding.

Australia's reluctance to use nuclear energy does not stop it from mining the uranium that lies beneath its vast territory. The uranium deposits located in Australia make it the third largest deposit in the whole world. There are three operating uranium mines in Australia: Ranger in Northern Territory, Olympic Dam in South Australia, and Beverley. Each of these mines contribute to 600 million dollars towards the economy. Most countries using uranium use it for their nuclear power plants; however, Australia uses it for their medical research. These mines are an amazing help to the people of Australia because it creates more jobs, stimulates the economy, and helps the medical practices. The commonwealth of Australia would look highly upon other countries if they were to perform the same precautions of environment that they do.

Delegation from: Republic of Austria

Represented by: North Royalton High School

Position Paper for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee

The matter placed in the hands of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee is that of the regulation of commercial activities beyond the Karman Line as well as either long term storage or complete disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. Austria supports reserving space exploration for the benefit of all mankind as well as holding individuals accountable for proper disposal of hazardous nuclear waste.

I. The Regulation of Commercial Activities in ‘Outer Space’

The exploration of outer space has become increasingly prominent in international issues. With the advances in technology that allow for the travel and use of outer space for satellites and such devices to be more necessary, cost-efficient, and probable, countries have become more interested in the regulation of these activities. While many countries may have a supposed view on the definition of state sovereignty, there is no vertical state sovereignty established. This allows for free reign of satellites and other space equipment. The Republic of Austria has already taken steps for space activity inside of its borders.

The Republic of Austria believes that some amount of regulation of outer space activities is necessary, especially in the case of malfunctioning equipment or improper operation. Objects and persons destroyed or injured due to the operation of outer space activities must have responsible operators associated to them and the operators must be prepared for financial reparations to injured parties. The Republic of Austria has played a large part in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and still remains active in that area. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs was moved to Vienna in 1993. The Republic of Austria has also started and maintained outer space projects with Norway, Sweden, France, Switzerland, and Germany. The Republic of Austria is greatly involved in many areas of space technology and scientific data analysis, with most of the focus in satellite-based

applications. The government of Austria has passed laws on space devices that require responsibility and credibility of the operator and of the device that will be used in any space operation.

The Republic of Austria believes that the edge of space would be the Karman Line, but like the FAI is open to lowering that line to 80 km. The Republic of Austria benefits greatly with unregulated space operations, as Austria is at the head of multiple space organizations and explorations of the solar system. Austria believes that regulation is necessary for the safety of its own people. Austria believes that there must be one held responsible for misfired, malfunctioned, or misused space equipment. The operator of said equipment must be checked and go through the proper process. This can easily be met by following Austria's process by validating the operator, accruing insurance for damage to others, and registering with the respective country who then communicates the information with the Secretary-General of the UN. Also due to the Outer Space Treaty Austria does not agree with the capitalism of space as the exploration of space must be done to benefit all countries and space shall be free for use and exploration by every country. This does not allow for the selling for profit of the materials obtained and acquired in space. The Republic of Austria also believes that the United Nations is performing well on the subject of space control and will support the UN as the organization to regulate space law.

II. Long Term Solutions to Radioactive Waste

The use of nuclear energy as a source of power over the past half a century has led to the formation of several issues concerning how to deal with the detrimental nuclear byproducts that are produced. While using nuclear energy may be cleaner and more efficient, once the fuel rods are consumed all that will remain is high-level radioactive waste. The Republic of Austria has already taken several steps towards a solution for the contaminants that follow using

nuclear energy and believes that the use of nuclear power should be cut back upon, as the gains of it are not worth the struggles now put forth to the United Nations.

The Republic of Austria is firmly anti-nuclear, and though Austria does not believe in the use of nuclear energy, nor have any currently active power plants producing said energy, Austria recognizes that other countries of the UN do still rely heavily on nuclear energy and therefore in 1957 when the UN created the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, allowed for it to be based in Vienna, Austria. The Republic of Austria has had a large hand in the formation of this group and believes in its efforts to put regulations on nuclear energy and radioactive waste, as well as advocate for peaceful use of nuclear energy following WWII. It heavily believes in the principle of whoever produces the radioactive waste to be the one to pay for the disposal of said waste and help treat the waste in a way not diminishing to one's health. The people of Austria have decided to refuse the use of any nuclear power plant in their country, evident by the 1978 Austrian Nuclear Power Referendum. The government of Austria has also passed several laws to manage the radioactive waste of the little nuclear power used in the country, such as having the ones who produced the waste be legally responsible for paying to get it safely removed and stored.

The Republic of Austria has routinely been a major advocate for a better option in dealing with HLW. In order to form a long term solution to the issue of nuclear waste, the world must begin to stray away from using such as a source of energy before it can be properly dealt with. With more natural energy sources become large, one could follow the Austrian policy of 'polluter pays' when dealing with nuclear waste to achieve this. Once that has been able to take place, the plan to find a way to effectively store HLW with minimal consequences can occur. Austria believes regional and international cooperation between the United Nations a possible option for radioactive waste management. The main task would be to find a few large enough places globally that could house the current amount of waste with minimal consequences. More than likely, this place would need to be underground and avoid contact with the public. Communities around the storage site should be notified of the waste and given precautionary measures in the case of an emergency. The leaders of said communities should partner with governing bodies to decide the best way to handle the disposal of HLW in that area. Short term security of these few stations could include military service composed of several of the United Nations, Austria included, as well as future laws that can be put in place wherever the storage site is decided to be placed. Constant military presence should be involved at

the sites of the radioactive waste, even after the initial establishment of the sites. The Republic of Austria believes that the United Nations has a responsibility to attempt to limit the damage that HLW can cause, and should play a major role in the process of the cleanup of radioactive waste. As a whole, the United Nations must agree that nuclear energy must have restrictions placed on it as well as be the main benefactor in finding as safe a place as possible for nuclear waste.

School: Rocky River High School

Delegation: Belgium

Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization (GA4 SPECPOL)

The issues before General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization (GA4 SPECPOL) Council are Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman Line and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste.

Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman Line

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Belgium has had extensive involvement in the aeronautics industry. In the past few years, Belgium has been spending more than 200 million euros for research and development, and would like to emphasize the importance of not only how much the future of the Karman Line affects Belgium, but the rest of the world as well.

The problem arises when you try to differentiate spacecraft and aircraft because no one is sure where space starts and airspace ends.

Our idea for a solution to this problem is to make sure there is a more government involvement as to what happens in each country, state, or territory. Regarding the Karman Line, it's been defined and changed to fit the parameters and the majority of countries interpretation on where the border of space is located. But not every country agrees with this interpretation, so individual countries should agree on their own belief of where space starts. That way it would be easier to agree on a wider range of parameters to ensure that most countries agree on the placement of the line. Setting up a council to watch over the government and regulating the commercial activities above the Karman line would be effective. Everything above the Karman Line is outer space so it cannot be claimed. So after each country properly defines their desired and reasonable boundaries, then the United Nations should set a council to regulate and put under surveillance what happens above the Karman Line. Belgium would like to reiterate that what happens above the Karman could affect our entire planet so we hope to cooperate on a solution soon.

School: Rocky River High School
Delegation: Belgium

The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The issue of long term storage and disposal of hazardous nuclear is a vital issue. Every country in the Special Political and Decolonization council is affected by this in some way. Hazardous nuclear waste affects our climate, which is a global issue. The Delegation of Belgium hopes to work with the other members of this council to mitigate the detrimental amounts of toxic waste the world pumps into our environment.

Belgium has a storage facility in Dessel for low and medium-impact radioactive waste. However, they still are searching for a long term solution for the higher impact nuclear waste. Belgium has looked into the use of clay formations as potential host rocks for long-lived, high-impact radioactive waste. This research started as early as 1974, yet no official legislation has been enacted to put the clay host rock plan into play.

In an attempt to include the research Belgian scientists have done on this topic, Belgium wishes to seek a resolution discussing potential host sites for the high impact nuclear waste. These sites could include rocks, or other natural materials that could act as a barrier between the waste and the natural world. Belgium wishes to seek a plan to mitigate the horrendous environmental impacts of nuclear waste.

Delegation from: Brazil

Represented by: Strongsville High School

Position Paper for General Assembly, Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization

The issues before the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly are: Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman Line

As the world as a whole progresses both economically and scientifically, new situations arise that were unprecedented even a decade before. One of these issues is of an urgent matter today, the regulation of commercial activities in space. The main issue of this topic concerns boundary issues, where countries' airspaces lie and how to prevent any conflict that may arise when entering or leaving this space. With this issue there is the potential, in both the private and public sectors, of a dispute over property of physical areas in space which is already difficult to distinguish. Even currently, companies and entrepreneurs, such as Elon Musk and Boeing, are competing over the possibility of commercial activity. Competition such as this can spur into greater conflicts involving nations and other entities. But preventative measures to this can be taken. A solution to this matter lies in the complete cooperation of the nations of the world, to consider the well-being of all countries and humankind.

Comparable to The United States and Russia, Brazil is a child of the first age exploration of space. The space program in Brazil goes back to the mid-twentieth century as the government began to develop a program for space exploration. Today, Brazil has two launch sites that are capable of assembling and testing rockets, satellites, and rocket engines. One of these sites, Alcântara Launch Center, is a prime location for a launch due to Brazil's location near the equator. In regards to development in space, Brazil is currently developing a launch vehicle nationally and a second launcher family in collaboration with the Russian Federal Space Agency

Regarded worldwide is the Outer Space Treaty, established by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This treaty states specifically that "States shall be responsible for their national activities in outer space, whether carried on by governmental or non-governmental entities". The implication of non-governmental entities includes private business that reside in that state. The treaty also includes that activities of non-governmental entities in outer space shall require the authorization as well as the supervision by the "appropriate state". In order to settle situations that could prove harmful to international relations, the delegation of Brazil recommends that the Outer Space Treaty be updated to meet the needs of the modern day. If this treaty was able to be amended upon, specific ramifications could be added to best ensure international peace and security. Regarding some of the main issues of such commercial activities, the amendment could include boundary specification as well as how corporations could abide to such boundaries. Another important enumeration would ensure that private companies who are entering the stratosphere must be licensed and have the safety criteria required for such a private spacecraft. This eliminates some concern in regard to liability of private companies in space. This solution is simple in its creation, allowing for the relation between states and private companies to thrive from this implementation of a soft law.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

Due to a recent growth in the development of numerous countries across the globe, the implementation of multiple energy sources has become a more common practice. One of the energy sources causing the most controversy is nuclear energy due to the highly toxic waste it secretes. This waste that is produced is known as the uranium rod, which emits extremely powerful radiation. The uranium rod has enough power to be effectively be used in nuclear reactors for over 10 years, but after its use is retired it can emit radiation for millions of years. The only presently enforced solution is storing these waste products in cooled water that prevents the spread of radiation. After being stored in water for 10 years, the uranium rods can be stored in concrete tubes that prevent the spread of radiation. Both of these present “solutions” to the storage of nuclear waste share one common fault, and that fault is vulnerability to natural disasters. The water that holds the uranium rods after their use must stay temperature controlled at all times, but if a power outage occurs or an earthquake causes a rupture in the holding tank that drains the water, radiation can quickly be emitted into the surrounding environment. These currently implemented methods are too vulnerable to be relied on for much longer.

Over the past few decades, Brazil has been working on the expansion of their nuclear power program, but that was met by many financial restrictions and setbacks. The country currently has two active nuclear power plants, and the construction of a third location was started but was quickly halted due to lack of monetary support. Brazil currently stores their nuclear waste in guarded repositories near the surface, and unguarded repositories located deep underground. The country does not rely heavily on nuclear power as an energy source since it only contributes to the production of 3% of their energy. The nuclear energy program in Brazil has a strong military influence, which is guiding its advancement for future projects.

As modern day civilization continues to grow and rely more heavily on energy, there needs to be a stronger, safer, and more reliable system put in place for the disposal and/or storage of nuclear waste products. To protect the health and wellbeing of future organisms on earth, the delegation of Brazil recommends the construction of underground storage compounds that are not only undiscoverable by society, but also immune to the effects of natural disasters. The goal of this plan could be met by converting old mines and underground quarries into underground bunkers able to protect and conceal radioactive product from society. Financial resources could be supplied by implementing South-South cooperation, which would promote co-funding by multiple nations to produce these storage facilities. Recycling old mines and quarries for this purpose would also take a large financial burden off of the participating nations. The end goal of this solution is to create a final storage location for nuclear waste that is immune to disaster, that does not take a large financial toll on any nation.

Position Paper For General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization

The issues presented before the General Assembly, Fourth Committee are: Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line; and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Nuclear Waste. The delegation of Canada hopes to create good relations with other delegations in order to form strong resolutions to these pressing issues.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line

Over the past few decades, the world has evolved to explore, research, and commercialize the opportunities beyond the Karman line. Following the end of the Cold War, the prospect of space commercialization became more plausible. The United Nations passed UN Resolution 1348 and the UNGA resolutions of the 1980s to affirm preliminary global peace in this transition to exploring, researching, and most problematic, commercializing space. In today's modern day and age, the global space commerce industry consists of countless satellites that expedite both private and public commercial interests. Collectively, the global industry earns 250 billion dollars a year. Several businesses employ satellites beyond in space to facilitate telecommunications, radio frequencies, remote sensing, and global navigation systems. Furthermore, with the advancement of rocket technology and an increase of space endeavors, space mining and space tourism have also become notable sources of revenue. Yet countless legal issues including liability complications and claim conflicts have emerged disrupting the industry. Already several nations have passed laws, held conventions, and made treaties to regulate the enormous influx of commercial activity, yet it is imperative that this effort is sustained, if not improved upon. Above all, it is crucial that the global community works together to procure form regulation while also allowing opportunity for entrepreneurial investment.

First and foremost, Canada is considerably involved in the global effort to regulate and maintain commercial activities beyond the Karman Line. The Canadian government has ratified the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and attended the Liability Convention of 1972 and the Registration Convention of 1975 all while simultaneously passing national laws to supervise its own commercial endeavors. Canada regulates its rocket launches under the Aeronautics Act, which oversees the operation of aircraft. The Canadian Aviation Regulations and the Canadian Association of Rocketry define the standards for aeronautical activities in Canada. Additionally, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD) is responsible for issuing licenses for remote sensing space systems under the 2005 Remote Sensing Space Systems Act. However, despite a couple government regulations, Canada allows the national space industry to police itself with the aid of NGOs and certain sectors of the space companies. With these regulations and rules firmly in place, Canada has launched several commercial satellites, such as Telesat, Anik, and Nimiq, along with a couple of research satellites developed by UTIAS-SFL. Moreover, Canada's prominent influence in both the NASA Space Shuttle and International Space Stations programs and the European Space Agency serve to support the investments of space companies, namely Telesat and the MDA. The "space clusters" across the wide array of Canadian communities have held paramount significance in the development of commercial satellites. Nevertheless, it is needless to say that that the Canadian space industry is predominant and successful in the art of regulating, supporting and expanding its commercial space industry.

In this constantly advancing modern society, it is of the utmost importance that nations unite to form an allied global network that not only regulates and preserves the commercial space industry, but also ensures its expansion and success in the coming years. It is impossible to place the responsibility of this commercial space venture into the hands of a couple nations as it requires the modulation of a multitude of areas including but not limited to, safety codes, environmental regulations, and liability apportioning statutes. A more coordinated approach to licensing and regulation of commercial spacecraft would decrease safety and legal risks. It is also important to note that Canada disapproves of cheap and unreliable economic measures to attract commercial space activities as it is usually at the expense of environmental safety. Instead it hopes for Furthermore, Canada believes this global regulatory agency should have jurisdiction over licensing and enforcement of commercial spacecraft, as well as addressing liability insurance and damage reimbursement. However, to continue to encourage commercial development in space, the regulatory burden, and liability risk should not be burdensome. Overall, as nations of this advancing era, the delegation of Canada sees it fit to form a global network that focuses on stable economic measures, environmental safety, firm yet opportunistic liability and claim measures to regulate the commercial space industry, so as to not hinder the industry from reaching its full potential, but instead ensure its success in the coming years.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Nuclear Waste

Over the past decades, the world has exponentially improved in advanced nuclear energy and technology. These advancements are indeed helpful to the world in terms of achieving knowledge and power, however, it is arguable that they do more harm than good. The world has accomplished deadly nuclear weapons, radioactive technology, and space travel, but the useless wastes remain and have to be stored. Radioactive wastes are stored so as to avoid any chance of radiation exposure to people, or any pollution. The radioactivity of the waste decays with time, providing a strong incentive to store high-level waste for about 50 years before disposal. Disposal of low-level waste is straightforward and can be undertaken safely almost anywhere. Storage of used fuel is normally under water for at least five years and then often in dry storage. Deep geological disposal is widely agreed to be the best solution for the final disposal of the most radioactive waste produced. However, the result of decaying waste takes much time, money, and valuable space as well. Overall, with the increase of nuclear wastes in the world, it is essential that nuclear waste management and disposal options continue to further advance & develop.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is Canada's nuclear regulatory body, which regulates and licenses facilities, in order to protect the health, safety and security of Canadians and, the environment, and is created under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act (NSCA). CNSC's mandate is to implement Canada's international commitments on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and to disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public. The Government of Canada's *Radioactive Waste Policy Framework (1996)* is a structure of policies, legislation and responsible organizations set in place to govern the management of radioactive waste in Canada. The documents that guide the CNSC's waste management program are: the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and its associated regulations, the Regulatory policy P-290: *Managing Radioactive Waste (2004)*, and the Regulatory Guide G-320: *Assessing the Long-Term Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (2006)*. In Canada today, when used nuclear fuel bundles are removed from a reactor, they are placed in a water-filled pool where their heat and radioactivity decrease. After several years, the bundles are placed in dry storage containers or vaults. Dry storage is a proven technology that has been in use around the world since the 1980s. Canada also uses the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. APM is both a technical method and a management system. The endpoint of the technical method is the centralized containment and isolation of Canada's used fuel in a deep geological repository in an area with suitable geology and an informed and willing host. APM also involves the development of a transportation system to move the used fuel from the facilities where it is currently stored to the new site. The management system allows for flexibility in the pace and manner of implementation, and fosters the sustained engagement of people and communities throughout its implementation. APM is also designed to meet rigorous safety standards throughout all aspects of its design and implementation.

A recent and promising solution to long term nuclear waste storage and disposal in deep isolation, which is an idea created by the Deep Isolation Team led by Richard Muller. Rather than creating large tunnels, Deep Isolation will place nuclear waste in narrow 18-inch horizontal drill holes in rock that has been stable for millions of years. The Deep Isolation repository begins with vertical access drill hole extending thousands of feet deep and will then gently turn horizontal. Canisters containing nuclear waste would be stored in the deep horizontal section. Benefits to this solution include: One drill hole can store 8 years of waste from a boiling water reactor and 33 years of waste from a Pressurized Water Reactor; the tilted horizontal drill hole offers excellent isolation from surface; the drilling, placement, and retrieving techniques are standard and reliable and; sites can be at or near power plants to minimize transportation. There is also the option of geologic isolation, where a deep horizontal drillhole repository takes advantage of the exceptional isolation properties of geologic formations whose stability has endured for tens of millions of years or more. Deep disposal would also be far below aquifers, in a region in which water has had no contact with the surface for a million years or more. Deep, stable rock formations thousands of feet underground provide a billion tons of rock between the waste and the surface and an extremely long time for waste to diffuse to the surface, even if it penetrates the engineered barriers, allows most radioisotopes time to decay naturally. Deep and geologic isolation leverages recent advances in directional drilling to provide a safe and less expensive approach to the long term storage and disposal of nuclear waste. The Department of Energy also suggests storing nuclear material deep within the earth's surface in safe, scientifically proven locations, which represent the safest and most cost-effective method for permanently disposing of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Delegation from: China

Represented by: Solon High School

Position Paper for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee is to address the following concerns: Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Kármán line and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. The People's Republic of China is committed to the maintenance of a safe, clean, and sustainable environment for all humanity, both on this planet and beyond.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Kármán line

Recently, both public and private interest in commercial space exploration have expanded. To answer this growing demand, many countries and companies have begun conducting their own activities beyond the Kármán line, with only a few vague guidelines to follow. Based on past historical circumstance, the People's Republic of China recognizes the need for clear and impartial regulations on commercial activities outside the Earth's atmosphere.

China has a long and advanced history in terms of outer space exploration and technology development. Thus, many officials in this area are interested in expanding into the industrial and commercial sector—as long as the proper rules are put in place to regulate such activities. Without such regulations, China is fully aware of the long term drawbacks both environmentally and economically speaking (similar to what occurred with the exploitation of the Americas in the last era of human history). As such, China is willing to share its outer space research and resources with the rest of the world on the condition that commercial regulations are made to benefit all people and not simply private interest.

Since the topic of space exploration is quite recent, the Chinese government recognizes the need for further research into the subject in order to generate the most effective and efficient regulations. Accordingly, China seeks to make regulations that take into account the ever advancing state of space technology, looking beyond what is currently possible. In this case, advanced knowledge of such technology is absolutely required to achieve such a feat. Furthermore, China believes it is imperative that private interest does not eclipse public good, and so advocates for a thorough inspection of current commercial space activities and practices in order to determine which are more beneficial to humanity as a whole (as opposed only benefitting the avaricious few, as many earthly laws do now).

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

Unlike commercial space exploration, the disposal of nuclear waste has long been a problem facing modern humanity. As countries develop further, the option of switching the mode of energy production to that of nuclear becomes more and more attractive. However, the consequences—hazardous nuclear waste—are rarely considered, leading the world to the its current problem with such dangerous waste. While no solution is perfect, if an effective one is not found soon, the safety of humanity itself is uncertain. Such dangerous substances must be dealt with quickly, and China is dedicated to resolving this issue and returning the world to a safer and cleaner state.

The People's Republic of China has taken a recent interest in developing technology for the clean and effective disposal of nuclear waste. By 2030, China hopes to complete development on a new hybrid reactor with the ability to burn nuclear waste via a combined fusion-fission method. This would greatly boost China's overall goal to switch to more sustainable energy production and decrease damage to the already precarious state of this world's environment. China is aware that other countries are doing similar research; however, at this point China is the only country with a clear schedule to develop such a reactor. The volume of hazardous nuclear waste only increases as time goes on, however, and waiting ten years for a solution is not feasible. Thus, China seeks an effective temporary solution to the current dangerously high volume of nuclear waste in the world. China is, of course, open to receiving ideas from other countries regarding this subject and reciprocating in terms of research.

As demonstrated in the previous paragraph, China believes the advancement of technology to be key in solving nuclear waste issue in the long term. However, as the world is already experiencing negative effects from the current volume of nuclear waste, China is also aware of the need to a quick short term solution. Thus, along with increased research, China also calls for the cooperation of other developing countries in terms of nuclear energy production. If a developing country has not yet considered the issue of waste and/or has no program in place to deal with such waste, expansion into nuclear energy production is not recommended. China realizes that many of its fellow developing nations will find this manner of resolution disagreeable, but for the sake of this planet and the humans living on it, China urges them to consider the reasoning behind this idea.

Delegation From: The Republic of Colombia

Represented by: North Royalton High School

**Position Paper for General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and
Decolonization**

The issues presented before the General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization are: Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line; and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. Colombia is committed to the issues presented and consequently supports the resolution of these issues in concomitance with the cooperation of other delegations.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman Line

The Republic of Colombia highly supports the discussions regarding the Karman line and the regulation of commercial activities. The Karman line defines the division between the earth's atmosphere and space currently lies about 62 miles from the surface of the earth. The definition is based off calculations made by physicist Theodore von Karman, who stated that at this point, the atmosphere is too thin to support flight. Through the decades, the amount of countries wanting to send spacecrafts into space have increased, cluttering the atmosphere. There are now debates going on as to where the Karman line should be located. Colombia strongly believes that there must be rules and regulations to control this increasing space activity.

As more countries are becoming developed, the number of countries operating in space has increased. Questions are also being brought up as to whether the Karman line should be set higher than 80-100 kilometers, or moved closer to 80-85 kilometers. If the boundary was changed, nations wishing to expand their controlled airspace will benefit. However, some countries argue that the line should be around 80 kilometers as that is where the lowest point of the operation of satellites exist. There are future plans for space to be used for commercial activities and human profit such as moon tourism and mining asteroids rather than space exploration and education. The delegation of Colombia wishes to establish a proper set of rules to control these commercial activities. If the number of spacecrafts in space increases further, the number of dangerous space debris in the LEO equation also increases making space travel more dangerous. There are no solid or specific rules and regulations at this point to control the excess amount of space activity. The Outer Space treaty establishes the basic guidelines that are not specific enough to support future increase in commercial activities and the delegation of Colombia hopes that the delegations can cooperate to come up with a solution to regulate this issue.

Colombia believes that the Karman line should be brought up to over 80 kilometers in order to ensure the decrease in the overcrowding of space. Colombia also believes that our solution should include a set of guidelines that countries must follow in order to be eligible for commercial use of space. The guidelines should limit the number of tourists allowed to visit the moon to avoid issues regarding which physical areas in space belongs to which countries and to ensure the safety of people and machines. It should also control the mining activities to prevent issues between countries about the gain of raw minerals from nearby asteroids. To regulate

commercial activities such as tourism and asteroid mining in space, Colombia believes that a new international organization must arise. The International Organization is to control the issues that arise between countries in case of problems regarding the increasing debris in the LEO equation and possible ways to control that with the growing amount of commercial activities that could add more junk in space. A healthy relationship between free enterprise and states includes the discussions to limit commercial activities by assigning the amount of asteroids that could be mined by each country and the number of tourists that can be sent out to space based on country size, need or wealth.

II. Long-term Solutions to High-Level Radioactive Waste

Nuclear waste is the material that nuclear fuel becomes after it is used in a reactor. This material is highly radioactive, and therefore very dangerous. It doesn't degrade for thousands of years.

The nuclear industry generates about 2,535 tons of nuclear waste per year. If a human gets too close to the radioactive waste, he or she would be diagnosed with radiation sickness and would die within a few days. Some of the irreversible damages caused by this nuclear waste included the damage in Fukushima, Japan that killed thousands of people and is now inhabitable.

Plutonium, a type of radioactive compound, has a half life of 24,000 years and therefore, it will be dangerous for over 100,000 years. This shows the long life span of this dangerous substance.

Colombia strongly hopes that the delegations can come up with a possible solution to store this dangerous nuclear waste long term.

The problem that is to be solved is finding a solution to store the radioactive waste that is already in existence. Some possible solutions that the delegation of Colombia has entertained includes

the burial of the radioactive waste underground. The solution includes the drilling of a 3,000 to 5,000 meter holes on the earth to bury the waste and then to cover up the hold with bentonite clay or concrete. Another possibility includes the storage of this waste in space, however, this idea poses an enormous amount of threat as a disaster in the launching of the spacecraft can wipe out an inconsiderable amount of people. Ideas to store this waste underground in the ocean has also been dismissed due to the chances of a leakage that might contaminate the water. There is a possibility that the future generations may not know about the nuclear waste and problems exist as to determining the prevention of the discovery of this nuclear waste.

The delegation of Colombia stands in favor of the storage of the nuclear waste undergrounds in a long-term basis. The communities should be located as far as possible from these sites in order to achieve the safety. To avoid the explosion of this waste from terrorists, the nuclear waste should be heavily guarded as a short-time solution. To ensure that the future generations do not accidentally discover the nuclear waste, the waste must be buried as far down as possible. A big, red "X" must also be placed to warn individuals to stay away. The delegation of Colombia also hopes that new inventions will help the humans of this generation to communicate with the newer generations using translators or pictograms. As a whole, the UN and the other international organizations should work together to find locations on earth with the least amount of population as well as the best environment to store such a material.

Special Political and Decolonization

Regulating Commercial Activity in ‘Outer Space’

The Republic of Cuba

Tess Namy, Hawken School

The cold war ended in 1991, but the race to space is still present in today’s society. However, it is no longer just between the United States of America and Russia. In fact, countries are not the only ones on the tracks anymore. Now, space has become commercialized. As technology continues to advance bringing us closer to a world in which space colonization is a reality rather than a fantasy, regulations of commercial activity in outer space is more needed than ever. In the status quo, there is little regulation or laws in the international community that regulate what is defined as “outer space” as well as promoting an industry that is beneficial to all parties involved through proper parameters. Currently, soft laws rule the space industry. Soft laws are quasi-legal meaning they are policy without any real teeth behind it. The UN looks to regulate this growing industry of commercial explosion of space. In addition, this committee looks to replace soft law with clear regulations that carry weight as well as creating a specific enforcement mechanism. The regulation of outer space holds weight in shaping the future of not only the space industry but the world.

Cuba, along with other countries, has commonly and continuously shown interest in space activity. Cuba realizes the importance that with space exploration and commercial activity comes many benefits for their country. Since and before 2017 Cuba has been operating multiple different satellites in outer space. Additionally, Cuba has been planning to release more satellites in future years, and Cuba is looking forward to advancing more of their outer space research. Because Cuba is commonly involved in continuing and developing more knowledge about the outer space, Cuba is prevalent in this conversation.

Cuba has sponsored multiple draft resolutions with other members of the United Nations already starting to regulate commercial activities in outer space. One of the draft resolutions that they currently signed on is preventing an arms race in space and eliminating danger that would lead to international peace among nations. Because of the use of anti-satellite weapons and other dangers, countries are using these weapons to dominate outer space and take control of other countries information and messages that are within their satellite. Cuba is against the use of arms in harming other countries space crafts. Cuba would like to pass a resolution that disregards the ability of using arms in the outer space race and would like to continue to make other regulations that would benefit Cuba’s privacy and role in outer space.

Special Political and Decolonization

Long-term Solutions to High-Level Radioactive Waste

The Republic of Cuba

Serena Singerman, Hawken School

As the global community continues their mission to create a more “green” world, nuclear energy is seen to be a solution to the large carbon emissions that come from other power sources. The one drawback: the large sums of waste that is left behind through this energy source. This

waste takes form of fuel rods that are moved to cooling pools once they are no longer able to produce energy. Traditionally, these rods once cooled would be moved to long term storage facilities that do not currently exist. The radio-active isotopes within the nuclear waste become harmless, but that can take up to 24,000 years. Currently, a number of different high level waste storage facilities are in a state of uncertainty while other countries work towards building brand new facilities. Often, the location of these facilities is one of the major road blocks due to communities not wanting a nuclear storage facility with reasonable concern due to the possibility of an incident similar to the 2011 Fukushima crisis. The United Nations has a responsibility continue the investigation of the best means to manage nuclear waste and create the proper precedence for involvement from the international community.

Under the status quo, Cuba does not currently have their own nuclear power plant. The construction of one, the Juragua Nuclear Power Plant, began with the construction of the first reactor in 1983. The parts for construction were supplied by Russia then the Soviet Union. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the construction for the plant was interrupted. As Russia reestablished economic stability, they resumed control of the project. The two countries talked to a number of European companies in search for the parts needed and continued construction. The project was halted again in 1992 when Russia pulled out claiming that Cuba failed to meet their portion of the fiscal responsibilities. The project was left in a state that it was unusable. A third attempt at construction of the plant occurred in 1995 according to the Russian government with the assistance of a number of European companies. However, the European companies did want to participate in the project risking the wrath of the United States government which discouraged countries involvement through the Helms-Burton Act. Ultimately, resumption of construction did not occur and the reactors were removed from the plant by Russia in 2004. While there is no current plant based in Cuba, Cuba's history with nuclear energy as a power source does not begin nor end with the construction of the plant. In 1956, both Cuba and Russia signed an agreement of cooperation between the two in the creation of nuclear reactor. This treaty was later terminated in 1962 with the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Cuban National Center Nuclear Safety recently completed a study outlining a new plan for nuclear waste. The plan prioritizes safety for both citizens and the environment over economic success. The plan is multi-stepped that focuses on classification of nuclear waste depending on its half-life. A number of organizations in Cuba are charged with enacting the plan: the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the National Center for Nuclear Safety, and the Center for Protection and Hygiene of Radiations. Cuba's plan can be used as a pilot for a larger international plan. The classification system, the goals and the research can be largely applicable and can guide the decisions this committee makes as they are based on fact versus theory.

Delegation from: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Represented by: Beachwood High School
Committee: GA4 SPECPOL

***Position Paper for the General Assembly, Fourth Committee: Special Political and
Decolonization***

I. Regulating Commercial Activities in 'Outer Space'

Long after the wonder of the space race has faded, private companies have started. As capitalist nations have dangerously encouraged the unrestricted growth of their companies, putting their citizens in danger, companies have started looking into space exploration. Immense capitalist entities and their owners like Elon Musk and SpaceX have rekindled the west's fascination with space and their need to constantly prove they are better than the rest of the world. This advancement into the unknown by greedy capitalists and businessmen cannot be allowed to continue without any oversight from the international community. What is done in space has an impact on the entire globe.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea firmly believes that nations have the right to control the actions of the businesses that operate within their borders. By intervening in the businesses that operate within our nation, we have been able to foster one of the most successful and profitable economies known to the entire civilized world. Our economy is an example that should be followed by other countries in not only Asia, but the world. By intervening and regulating in every industry in our glorious nation, we have prevented any companies from acting irrationally or dangerously, preventing any negative effects from reaching our people. The evils of unrestricted company growth have dangerous effects on several fronts: economies, people, and the environment. In the interest of their own personal greed, dirty capitalists enable the unrestricted growth of companies, without considering the severe damage that this does to the environment. Space is no exception to this. Too much waste exists in the atmosphere already from missions run by official state governments, so letting greedy businesses run free would enable them to further pollute space. All of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's space missions have succeeded without flaws or problems. The DPRK remains very committed to ensuring space stays safe.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been and always will be a warrior for national sovereignty. Providing support to ensure that each nation has the right to strictly regulate commercial activities in outer space is of extreme importance. We strongly suggest that western nations put aside their past bias and aggression and come to see us seriously in this matter. A plan to ensure that companies do not abuse space like they have the resources here on Earth is vital to the long term success of nations across the globe. The DPRK proposes a three pronged plan which includes 1) reinforcing the sovereignty of nations in regulating business within their borders 2) educating citizens of the world on the damages of unrestricted capitalism and enormous business as well as 3) recommending base regulation for countries to implement into their own governments regarding commercial space activity. We hope for a productive insightful, and most importantly unbiased committee session. Long live the supreme leader.

II. Long-term Solutions to High-Level Radioactive Waste

Since the 1950s, the developed world has been moving away from fossil fuels and begun utilizing alternative sources of power. Among these alternative sources is nuclear energy. Nuclear power plants produce steam from nuclear fission with uranium. This method produces electricity much more efficiently than traditional coal plants. The caveat, however, is that high-level nuclear waste is produced in this process. This nuclear waste can decay for millennia, posing a threat to humans and other organisms that come in contact with it. No matter the future of nuclear energy, high-level radioactive waste has already been created and will continue to pose a threat to the future of humanity unless it is properly disposed.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been a strong proponent for nuclear energy since the technology was first discovered. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue to develop its nuclear energy programs, and must find a method to properly dispose of the resulting waste. Western powers have proven ineffective in their long-term planning for the disposal of high-level waste. They are hindered in their endeavors by their concerns for this disposal and the population's ignorant resistance to nuclear energy. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is developing a great nuclear program with nothing but support from the informed and educated populous of Korea. With such pointless political discourse in the opposition, the western world is held back from the economic and industrial benefits from nuclear energy. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea believes it is the right and responsibility of each nation to dispose of nuclear waste and continue developing nuclear energy programs unhindered by global politics.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea firmly supports the sovereign right of each nation to pursue its own nuclear interests. The disposal of high-level nuclear waste shall be determined through each nation's interests and opportunity. International regulation of nuclear waste only impedes the furtherment of nuclear interests. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea firmly believes in a bright future for nuclear energy, one that can only be attained through the endeavors of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the nuclear programs of other sovereign nations. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is capable of disposal of nuclear waste through the safest and most efficient means available. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea believes in setting an example, and this example shall be amply set in the prosperity of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through its future success in nuclear power. Our nation can help bring about the new age of efficiency worldwide without antagonizing regulations regarding something as simple as disposal of waste. Long live the supreme leader.

Fourth Committee of the General Assembly: Special Political and Decolonization - Delegation of Egypt

Topic A. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line

With the approaching possibility of regular space travel there comes a growing concern with unregulated commercial activities occurring beyond the spatial limits of the Earth. Many countries, developed and as well as developing, have formed their own space program. It is crucial that the UN work together in order to regulate fair commerce within space, so that it can be economically beneficial to the world as a whole. The untapped market is drawing the attention many new industries that could gain uncontrolled growth. Member states can work within the the model UN to further develop their space programs in order to account for commercial activity.

Topic B. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

Nuclear energy is a very common source of energy among the global community, it can provide many benefits for large amounts of energy. Egypt is a major user of nuclear energy, as it is a efficient way to obtain necessary power. Nuclear power plants are known for creating a great deal of radioactive waste, with 30 grams typically accumulating just to generate electricity for a single person's use. Considering the fact that a large portion of the world utilizes nuclear power, it is important that there is an efficient and standardized way of disposing of it, which can be used by all member states. While Nuclear power is incredibly useful, we must also devise a way to clean up after the mess it can leave behind.

Delegation from : *The French Republic*
Represented by : *Solon High School*

Position Paper for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

The issues being discussed today are Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line and the Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. The French Republic is dedicated to ensuring the fair regulation of space commerce as well as searching for a lasting solution to the nuclear waste crisis.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line

With the increasing population of human society and decreasing access to sufficient resources, many people— both public and private— are looking beyond the confines of Earth. As billions of profit and scores of revolutionary information are at stake beyond the Karman line of 100 km above the Earth's surface, the commercialization of international space programs was inevitable. However, both public and private action is currently going mostly unregulated. As the French Space Program is the 3rd oldest institutional space program in history and the largest space program in Europe, France advocates for the joint creation of a space district by the international community.

For decades, France has been focused on rapid, concentrated industrial and technological development in space exploration technology. With the creation of CNES (National Centre for Space Studies or “centre national d'études spatiales”) France was the third country to achieve access to space. CNES also regularly collaborates with many other European countries, efforts that are evident in the creation of the European Space Agency (ESA) headquartered in France and the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative that pools space resources to monitor the environment and to provide satellite support for armed forces on border patrol, maritime security, and peacekeeping missions. The French space budget is the largest of the member countries of the ESA and the second largest national budget globally at 2.33 billion euros. France was also one of the first countries with a unified legislation on the topic of its national space activities with its Law on Space Operations (LOA, 2008), France was able to outline specific regulations for domestic and foreign space agreements in addition to technical and procedural expectations. In 2015, the French government agreed to refunnel 30 million euros from its Investing in the Future (PIA) PIA public bond fund to promote technologies needed for low-orbiting constellations of Internet-delivery satellites; this was meant to support the French private commercial space industry.

The French Republic is aware of the difficulties that all nations face in expanding both publicly and privately beyond the Karman line. As a forefront proponent of international cooperation regarding space legislative regulation, France proposes a unique solution to the SPECPOL committee: the creation of a space district. This space district would stress sovereign neutrality, a concept that would subsequently be accomplished by having an international administration independent of particular national influences to govern the district. The body's purpose would be oversee the proper execution of international space law and ensure international cooperation regarding mutual goals. A space district would resolve issues with potentially clashing public interests and private economic activity regulations, creating a body that is truly one for all and all for one.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

As the current crisis surrounding decreasing amounts of non-renewable energy continues to grow, further development and integration of green energy sources remains a priority. With nuclear energy being the cleanest and most sustainable, great improvements have been made in increasing its viability. Yet, as with all types of power, byproduct is inevitable - and in this case, highly radioactive. Currently, there are no long-term disposal or storage plans for the waste generated, a major issue that needs to be addressed if nuclear power is to take over as the leading source of energy. As France operates the second largest nuclear program in the world, France advocates for global cooperation in devising an effective long-term storage plan for nuclear waste materials.

France has the world's second largest nuclear power fleet in the world, bested only by the US. This clean energy provides up to 75% of the power supply and has made France one of the largest exporters of electricity in the world, with principal importers being Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Italy.. The original shift to nuclear power began with the 1974 Messmer Plan, after a foreign oil crisis in 1973 led to shortages of power throughout the country. The Messmer Plan aimed to have France running completely on nuclear power, and great progress has been made over the last decades in building and maintaining our 58 reactors. Currently, France has managed to bring down the annual per capita of radioactive waste to 1 kg for every 2,500 kg of industrial waste, and hopes to continue this trend. The two largest domestic nuclear power companies, Areva and Electricité de France (EdF), began a partnership in 2011 in order to best optimize the safety and efficiency of France's nuclear reactors. Despite extensive development in the energy production department, France is still working on an effective means of nuclear waste disposal after the initial cooling and vitrification process. The French National Radioactive Waste Agency (ANDRA) has been working with the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) to streamline the recycling and storage of waste since the early 2000's. After ANDRA ran successful series of tests completed in 2005 in an underground laboratory, France has been working since to perfect the process, culminating into the Cigeo Project, scheduled to begin construction in 2025. France is already prepared to set aside nearly €17 billion in order to complete this project.

The French Republic, as one of the main producers of nuclear waste, is fully aware of the hazards it poses to our future generations. Thus, France proposes a temporary forum led by the IAEA specifically for countries that are currently using, or in the midst of developing, nuclear power in order to best devise a universal solution that can be used by all. Not only will this forum focus on the development of storage or recycling methods, but also ensure that it is available to all countries with nuclear power production facilities, as cost will likely be a major issue. France is willing to dedicate both resources and time in searching for a key, and hopes that other countries powered by nuclear energy will also follow suit. A forum dedicated only to the handling of radioactive waste would greatly increase chances of a feasible solution, paving the way for a safer and cleaner world for years to come.

Delegation from: Germany

Represented by: Jon Hubbard & Arselan Rekhif, Solon High School

Position Paper for United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Committee

The issue placed before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee is Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line. The Federal Republic of Germany strongly believes that failure to address and regulate the open game of the commercialization of space will lead to countless diplomatic issues and a disservice to the people of the world. Furthermore, the Federal Republic of Germany holds that the commercialization of space is the next step toward the frontier for the world.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line

The Federal Republic of Germany as a member of SPECPOL and a proud member of the European Space Agency, strongly affirms that this issue cannot go ignored. Germany, a member that works with the ESA and private companies to provide services for space, is set on continuing the commercialization of space with regulations. With an already developing private industry in the field such as German companies working for Jeff Bezos's space project, Blue Origin, Germany is making a run for the new "Space Race" of corporations. Germany fully believes in using its growing foothold in both the private and public sector for space travel, that humanity will be better off entirely.

With Germany passing multiple UN resolutions on space regulation and laws, cooperation of member states in space, and registration of space objects, (UN Res. 51/122, 1996), (UN Res. 59/115, 2004), and (UN Res. 68/74, 2013) Germany believes it's shown a strong commitment to the betterment of space and the further economic opportunities it has. Germany's head start on the commercialization of space illustrates the economic opportunity that the industry has, and how remiss the UN would be to leave space with no changes in regulation.

Germany firmly believes the solution for the wild land of space relies in a "soft regulation policy". This soft regulation would clearly define regulations and barriers for private and public sectors with space starting above the already established Karman line. Germany believes that an international organization should be established to create international law for all countries and corporations to follow in their efforts to commercialize. These laws would have to include safety regulations for all persons in low earth orbit.(LEO) However, with this "soft regulation policy" the international community should include policies that encourage the further expansion of space travel and markets especially with tourism and mining of raw materials in space on asteroids.

The issue placed before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee is the Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. The Federal Republic of Germany firmly holds that failing find a solution or regulation for high-level waste(HLW) will result in large scale ruinous actions for our earth now and in the future. In addition, The Federal Republic of Germany believes that long term storage of HLW is a key goal for the energy crisis in the world.

II. Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The Federal Republic of Germany as an member of SPECPOL and a member in the nuclear community, actively affirms that the disposal of nuclear waste is pressing issue in the world that cannot go ignored. Germany, long since recognizing the dangers of nuclear waste, stopped creating new nuclear generating stations in the 1980's. Nonetheless, Germany still requires storage for HLW of existing stations. Germany has had low and medium level waste stations in Gorleben and Hesse but still lacks storage for high-level waste and desperately needs storage for 26 spent canisters gained from France's waste centers.

With Germany's support for 2000 A/RES/54/54 C, a resolution detailing the prohibition of improper dumping and storage of nuclear waste, Germany has demonstrated its commitment to keeping the earth safe of radiation waves. Germany itself has attempted several projects to contain the nuclear waste like The Konrad Mine and The Morsleben Mine which were both attempts to dispose of low to intermediate radioactive nuclear waste. The Morsleben mine as been in the process of decommissioning since 1997 while the Konrad Mine has had plans of expansion. Germany still faces struggles with disposing the majority of the nuclear waste as there are no means to do so.

Germany believes that a possible solution for the disposal of radioactive waste is to create a committee that will have environmental specialists find the most optimum place to place the core. Once the location is found the radioactive waste can be stored into sub-ground and above ground facilities to be kept away from the general public. This new committee can be overseen by the United Nations with member states contributing toward its goal. This committee will also have to have bi-annual reports to the United Nations about any progress that has been made with the new committee. This committee will be responsible for finding the optimum place that will not hurt any person, they will also be responsible for overseeing the construction of the site, and finally report to the United Nations.

Delegation From: The Republic of Greece
Represented By: Berea-Midpark High School

Position Paper for the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly: Special Political and Decolonization

The topics that are presented to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly: Special Political and Decolonization are: I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line and II. The Long-Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. The Republic of Greece wishes to provide adequate solutions to any problems regarding these topics, and to protect the environment and the wellbeing of the people and state.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman Line

The area beyond the Karman Line that separates the earth from space is typically explored for science, however some major companies and organizations have been using it for commercial use, which raises the question of whether it should be regulated, and how. The Republic of Greece is in full support of commercial use of space beyond the Karman Line. Greece has utilized it to help rebuild the economy after the debt crisis, via launching commercial satellites and the Hellenic Space Organization. In addition, Greece has signed treaties approving of the commercial use of space.

The Republic of Greece has taken advantage of commercial use of outer space in the past, namely the Hellas Sat 2, the first commercial satellite launched by Greece in 2001. This satellite was used for DTH broadcasting, and in 2017 was replaced by the Hellas Sat 3. Launched January of 2019, the Hellas Sat 4 will broaden the capabilities of the first two. The Greek Republic also started the Hellenic Space Organization in 2018, which is to provide not only scientific benefits, but economic as well. Because of Greece's current ongoing debt crisis, this is crucial in order to help fix it.

Greece has signed The Outer Space Treaty in the past, which prevents use of military weapons in space, but has opened commercial use up to the public. This treaty is agreed upon by 107 other countries as well. The Republic of Greece has also agreed to the Registration Convention. This requires registration of objects sent into space; everytime an object is sent to space, the convention's participants must provide information about the object to the United Nations first. The Republic of Greece is under belief that as long as the use of space is non-military and is registered, the commercial use of outer space is completely acceptable.

II. The Long-Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

Nuclear energy is undeniably one of the cleanest sources of energy in the world, but it has a problem. When the rod of energy is used up, it creates a lot of waste. The rods are placed in pools at the site it was used at to let it cool. After it cools off for a couple of years, it's prepared to be sent to be stored or disposed at a underground location made of concrete and steel.

There is just one problem, there aren't any of these sites built in the world causing a large amount of nuclear waste to be stacked up in the pool where the rods are cooled.

The Republic of Greece currently has no nuclear power plants but has a nuclear research facility that has been in extended shutdown since 2014 and a subcritical assembly plant. Waste from medicine, research, and industry are stored until it has decayed and then it is released. In 2013 the government passed a legislation that included the national policy, infrastructure, and programme for nuclear waste management, and procedures for facilities regarding nuclear waste management.

The Republic of Greece would like to find a way to be able to store or dispose of nuclear waste without putting people or ecosystems in danger. Not only will this keep people's lives safe but it also won't ruin the entire economy of an entire country. If a country were to dump its nuclear waste into a body of water, it could not only ruin the water and put people in harm's way, it could also destroy a country's economy, depending on the type of economy a country has.

Delegation from: India

Represented by: North Olmsted High School

Position Paper for Special Political and Decolonization

The Issues before SPECPOL and the delegation of India include: Regulating commerce above the Karman line through encouraging the new form of commerce through its territory and leapfrogging into space travel. The second topic is the long term storage of hazardous nuclear waste which the country of India implores the reuse of waste and byproducts as much as possible to lower the immediate danger on society.

I. Addressing growing concern of Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line

Currently, the regulations on commerce in space are lacking. There aren't many rules due to the fact that they haven't been needed because of our lack of technological prowess to get further than our orbit without insanely high costs due to fuel. But the regulations that do exist pertain to satellites and how you own it if it is in orbit. But beyond that space is treated the same as international waters and by that I mean nobody can own the water or own any commerce that is being done one that unless its done 3 miles offshore than it's in the territory of the state. For space, this territory is the Karman line (there area where earth's atmosphere ends and space begin).

Currently, India is looking to push towards the last frontier of space by commerce. Through the company Space 2.0, they hope to be globally disruptive by bringing the privatization of space. The reason why India is supporting this so much is due to the fact that it's a private business, although it is private the government of India has donated mass amounts of money to the company in order to push the privatization of space commerce. The Indian government sees the necessity of space privatization in order to move forward for the good of man. At the BSX-2018 (the national space convention) The chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) discussed while bringing India to the top of space exploration he hopes to bring a few countries with him in order to entice more countries to attempt space trade. The Chairman hopes to see the new revolution of man through space and its new capabilities to grow humanity.

The delegation of India desires for the world to invest in the privatization of space and in order to do so, they have private businesses developing new technology for them. The reason why they are already developing technology for it is that currently there are no limits on space travel so if they're in space they can do what they want as long as they don't destroy any other private company or government technology. The way India plans on pushing this idea is through joining up with countries to help push each other to the top of commerce in space and through funding of private companies which are much faster in development than government-owned organizations.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The misuse of nuclear waste can wreak havoc upon populations through contaminating livestock, water or soil through radiation. On April 26th, 1986 the Chernobyl reactor went out of control during a low-power test causing an explosion and ultimately polluting the grounds and shooting radiation into the atmosphere causing the area around it to be polluted with radiation. 150,000 km around the plant was polluted 500 is extremely dangerous and 50 km around is considered the exclusion zone and is uninhabitable. Unfortunately, the only way to help this pollution is time.

Currently, the delegation of India has not delved too deep into nuclear energy due to the efforts to maintain the population and how to feed the mass amounts of people. But the delegation of India is making efforts to lower their carbon emissions to 60% of total energy source. The reason as to why India has not grown with nuclear technology is due to not receiving any help from other countries (by choice). India plans to transfer more into clean energy as soon as 2030 but as late as 2050 or later. Recently India signed the IAEA, UN's nuclear watchdog which is kind of a form of insurance that says that if you build nuclear power plants and one were to get damaged and the damage exceeded 300 million dollars then you'd be reimbursed.

Currently India's lack of knowledge with nuclear power and thusly waste puts them at a disadvantage. Currently, the plans for nuclear waste is to use it for every power source and medicine possible but is unknown what they'll currently do with the excess. But currently, Finland is excavating deep underground where no natural disasters happen in order to store spent nuclear waste the reason why its deep underground is to keep it out of future generations hands and to keep it out of the drinking water. The plan for once this nuclear waste is put into the storage area is to just fill it back up and leave till its safe again. Currently, I think India should try to do the same project where low chances of natural disasters happen.

Delegation From: Iran

Represented by: St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

Position Paper for SPECPOL

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Between the Karman Line

Interactive activities between countries in outer space has been going on for quite some time. Initially, there was no true sense of authoritative manner because there were no regulation of the event itself. That is until 1967 where the Outer Space Treaty was created. The treaty created by the UN General Assembly was meant to regulate what was being traded and put into Earth's orbit but many remarks show that the treaty is merely ineffective, and has no true impact on the commercial activities that go on today. For example, there has found to be more than a million pieces of debris found in Earth's orbit affecting trade routes and also the monitoring of these trades. Rules need to be specified and enforced in The Outer Space Treaty or any other document to be created to discipline these actions.

The delegation of Iran has chosen not to be a complete party for the treaty. Instead, the country has just signed off on it but not completely ratified the documents. The country of Iran agrees with the ideals of the treaty and the need for monitoring trade & activities for the well being and safety of earth's orbit, but would rather see a reformed version of the documents with more clear guidelines and laws as to how all countries can work together to make these communications and trades between each other respectful to the laws. Iran is not the only country with these opinions. Other developing countries also have the same stance regarding the treaty as Iran. All countries though, are in some degree of agreeance with the treaty.

Iran has many strong plans when it comes to this issue but we also believe in collaboration with other nations. It is clear that the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 is not tangible for all countries, therefore a new one should be put in place. Therefore, in this committee we must start from scratch and build an agreement that will mutually benefit every country as a whole. A new treaty would be used to accompany all the needs of both developed and developing countries. The delegation of Iran is eager to hear all the ideas and proposals that will be brought out in this General Assembly.

II. The long term storage or disposal of nuclear waste

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on the planet. There are not yet any permanent solutions put in place to get rid of these weapons safely. It is unrealistic for the world to be completely nuclear weapon free, although many would encourage this. Such weapons are responsible for terrible disasters like wiping out entire cities from one bomb. These disasters result in long term effects such as radiation and effects the lives of inhabitants, decades after the disaster. The United Nations secretariat supports and seeks goals to completely get rid of nuclear weapons and looks to save humanity. Countries such as Kyrgyzstan are suffering from the

aftermath of radioactive waste being dumped into the rivers in small towns during WW2. The citizens use the rivers as their main source of water and are suffering with cancer and losing people to this helpless fight each and every day.

Iran remains apart of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons treaty and they work alongside France and Germany to influence other countries to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons among each other. In 2005 the IAEA investigated Iran in non-compliance with their safeguard agreements, and 7 resolutions were passed requiring them to discontinue the enrichment and bettering of their nuclear weapons. Iran met with the P5+1 and Iran yielded the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in July 2015, a comprehensive 25-year nuclear agreement limiting Iran's nuclear capacity in exchange for sanctions relief.

The delegation is committed to finding a relatively quick and permanent solution to aiding in the permanent disposal of hazardous weapons. This begins with putting in place an immediate transparency pact requiring countries to be accountable for all of the weapons they have in the form of a database. Actions must be taken quickly to ensure the safety of those affected around the globe due to radiation and its effects. It is recognized that these actions also call upon financial assistance but will lead to a more sustainable community as a whole.

Delegation from: the Republic of Iraq
Represented by: Campus International High School

Position Paper for the General Assembly Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee)

The issues before the General Assembly Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee) are: Regulating Commercial Activity beyond the Karman line; and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. The Republic of Iraq is committed to finding a suitable solution to both issue that appeal to all member states.

I. Regulating Commercial Activity beyond the Karman line

Human, and by extension, national presence in outer space can be traced back to 1957 when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I, the very first artificial satellite. With more developments, including sending humans into space and back, the possibility of future commercial activity beyond the Karman line has become more and more plausible. The Republic of Iraq believes “space trade” could provide feasible means of trade between countries.

Several resolutions and treaties have been passed by the UN, most of which the Republic of Iraq has signed. However, none address the unique issue of commercial activity in the aforementioned area. Commercial activity in space would provide unique benefits to nations. Trade could become more secure and, in the case of war-torn and/or developing nations, provide safe routes around terrorist groups, an issue the Republic of Iraq severely suffers from.

In the case of private commercial activity, things become problematic. Problems that affect current trade issues would affect commercial activity beyond the Karman line as well. The Republic of Iraq has the means to launch satellites, albeit not in its current developing state. The Republic of Iraq firmly believes that commercial activity must be highly regulated in order to prevent interference with international business.

The Republic of Iraq strongly desires commercial activity beyond the Karman line to be a reality. The Republic of Iraq will work to create a universally accepted Earth/space border, provided trade laws specifically relate to outer space commercialization, as well as limits for how, when, and where businesses can profit off of outer space.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

Ever since the introduction of nuclear power, the question of what to do with the life--threatening waste product has been heavily debated. There seems to be no easy answer, but something must

be done. Historically, the waste has been buried, but space is limited, and as more and more countries come into the nuclear power game, burial becomes more and more of a temporary solution. Iraq, after Operation Opera, has had no nuclear power in the country.

The Republic of Iraq, having had no part to play in the nuclear power game, has done little to solve this issue. However, the Republic of Iraq wishes to indulge in nuclear power. Iraq has requested the help of the United Nations in building a nuclear power reactor to create nuclear power in the Republic of Iraq. Iraq intends to use this reactor for peaceful purposes in an attempt to provide renewable energy to the nation. However, should this be done, the Republic of Iraq would also seek methods of storage and means of disposal for hazardous waste.

The Republic of Iraq believes proper handling of waste is important to the human race. The Republic of Iraq wishes that if proper disposal procedures can be discovered, more options for nuclear power should be given to developing nations, especially with the growing threat of climate change and the need to depend on renewable energy. With all this in mind, finding a solution that benefits developing nations is what needs to be done to help these states, as well as the world.

Delegation from: Ireland
Represented by: Strongsville High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Special Politics and Decolonization Committee

The issues before the United Nations Special Politics and Decolonization Committee, “Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line” and “The Long Term Storage or Regulation of Hazardous Nuclear Waste” are both pressing concerns, with outcomes that will affect the world long after a decision has been made. Ireland understand the urgency to these issues and hopes for a mutually beneficial outcome for all nations involved.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line

Ireland acknowledges the importance of the regulation of commercial activity in space, in addition Ireland recognizes that private companies are already commercializing outer space, and those business need to be considered in any and all regulations just as much as future private businesses. With the increasing amount of private business directed towards space the current regulations fall short in the guidelines they give for the commercialization of space. Another point of concern that this issue presents regards the body that will control the regulation of the commercialization of space. On top of that many countries can't seem to agree on where earth's atmosphere ends and space begins regarding business. This is a crucial point of information because it defines what rules and regulations a private business must follow.

As of now, there are no organizations, private nor government funded, that have any plans regarding commercialization of areas beyond the Kármán line. There are companies with ideas of of citizen spaceflight, but no real plans have been conceived. However, the Republic of Ireland is entirely supportive for regulations beyond that point. Ireland considers itself to be a valuable contributor to the European Space Agency. For the last twenty years, Irish technology institutes have made great strides in areas of software, electronics, and propulsion.

It is in the Republic of Ireland's best interests that the limits of space be established first and foremost. We believe it is necessary for the United Nations to agree upon an Outer Spacial Commercialization Committee. This committee will work among the industrial, commercial, and aerospace organizations of recognized nations with plans of crossing the Kármán line. This committee will also be responsible for handling disputes between nations over aerospace regulations. Another issue that occurs is the handling of man made debris in orbit. These debris can be harmful to satellites and will only grow. The process of collection of these debris should be cooperatively organized by the United Nations. The prevention of the buildup of debris in orbit must be handled internationally to prevent dead satellite landing disputes. Objects in orbit that are meant to be visible from the Earth's surface should only be allowed to be in space on certain days or weeks as to not be obstructive to astronomical devices on the surface. Many problems arise when considering commercialization past the Kármán line, and these issues can only be resolved with international cooperation.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The Republic of Ireland understands the importance of developing a long term solution for the storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. Regardless of the fact that Ireland is not itself a major producer of hazardous nuclear waste, it is still understanding of the necessity of a solution to this ever growing problem. With the growing amount of nuclear energy being produced around the world, the amount of nuclear waste it produces grows with it. Although the current solution to the storage of nuclear waste is not detrimental, it was only ever meant to be a temporary solution. Large amounts of high-level nuclear waste can be dangerous to store for a number of reasons. For example, extreme natural disasters disrupting the radioactive waste and possible use in an act of terrorism could be devastating.

Ireland itself does not have nuclear power reactors, or research reactors. It also does not have a uranium mine or any fuel fabrication facilities. This means that Ireland does not produce any nuclear waste worth noting. Ireland does not even have the means to process anything besides low level nuclear waste. Countries that produce little to no nuclear waste should aid in solving the problem by slowing the amount of hazardous waste accumulating, as the world continues to reach for a solution.

Ireland feels as though it is more the responsibility of the countries contributing most to the accumulation of hazardous nuclear waste to take steps to reduce the amount of nuclear waste they produce and or find suitable means to dispose of or store that waste. With that being said, a suitable way to store that hazardous nuclear waste would be through deep geological disposal. Deep geological disposal would mean that countries would dispose of the hazardous nuclear waste that they produce by storing it between 250 meters and 1000 meters deep for mined repositories, and between 2000 meters and 5000 meters deep for boreholes. This is the most preferred option for the safe disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. Ireland acknowledges that digging mined repositories and or boreholes is an expense not all countries are willing, or are able to cover, but Ireland feels that the expense of geological disposal is well worth the cost if it ensures the longevity of the safety of the disposed waste. There are many other potential options regarding low level or intermediate level waste that would be more cost efficient, but in regards to high level nuclear waste geological disposal is the safest most effective option.

Delegates from: Israel

Represented by: North Royalton High School

Position Paper for the General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization

The topics that the General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization will be focusing on are Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. Israel is committed to international cooperation to allow for the continued private activity in space as well as the implementation, improvement, and funding of activities such as plasma gasification melting (PMG) in order to properly store and dispose of hazardous nuclear waste.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman Line

Israel supports private industries participating in space travel and the “space race.” In terms of satellites, Israel focuses on “lightweight, high-performance satellites” carrying devices that are used for interstellar observations. As of 2015, there are fifteen civil satellites orbiting Earth alone. Although their military efforts in human capital, infrastructure, and investment has also helped their civil activities in space travel, the government of Israel is not the leading force in the space industry. Instead, the country features prominent private industries when it comes to space. The private space industry in Israel, with companies such as SpaceIL, often works with the United States space program and some of its private companies to explore the solar system, such as designing and building the subsystems to the Curiosity rover on Mars. While the international shift from government-owned to privately-owned space exploration is underway, Israel already has the mindset in place for such shifts.

Israel has worked with other countries of the United Nations to ratify five treaties regulating outer space activities. The first was the Treaty on Principles Governing Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, otherwise known as the “Outer Space Treaty.” This treaty gives all countries free access to outer space, forbids military operations in space, and has each country responsible to the actions of their private industries in space. The other treaty involving commercial activities was the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, otherwise known as the moon treaty. This treaty applied the basic outline of the Outer Space Treaty to specifically the moon. While forming resolutions on regulating commercial activities beyond the Karman line, Israel hopes it can work with other nations to produce regulations that do not greatly hinder private space activities.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

Israel has been doing nuclear research for decades, but it does not have any existing nuclear power plants. It does, however, have nuclear technology in those facilities. The main reason that Israel does not any plants is because it is not a signatory of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty wanted to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology. Israel views the Treaty as hypocritical representation of the views of the UN, and is not under the strict jurisdiction. Israel does still have some nuclear waste, and as of recently, it needs a new location to dispose of its nuclear waste. Negev desert has a nuclear sector that is

producing radioactive waste and Israel needs to dispose of it. Israel is burying it deep underground in barrels, along with contaminated water and clothes. This produces many negative side effects that Israel wants to combat. There are many environmental problems that will occur in the future, if there are not more ways to dispose or store hazardous nuclear waste.

Israel has a solution to dispose nuclear waste, but there are downsides to the solution. Environmental Energy Resources, an Israeli company, developed a system that aided in cleaning up the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, which uses plasma gasification melting (PMG). The nuclear waste is turned into an ionized gas, which then solidifies and has a lower radiation. This process does not deposit any pollution in the soil or the water, which is an advantage. The products can be reused to power generators or be made into tiles. The disadvantage to this system is that it produces carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide, so there is not a perfect environmental substitute, but it does serve as a way to reduce the amount of nuclear waste. Israel wishes to get funding to combat nuclear waste, and to use PMG to reduce the waste. Israel also wishes to perfect the PMG system, so that it could be an environmentally friendly procedure.

Delegation From: Jordan
Represented By: Laurel School

Position Paper for GA4 Special Political and Decolonization committee

The issues presented before the GA4 Special Political and Decolonization committee is regulating commercial activities in 'Outer Space' and the long-term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities in 'Outer Space'

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is honored to be present in the discussion of regulating commercial activities in outer space. We hope to help come to a resolution that will satisfy all delegations in a peaceful and productive manner. The delegation of Jordan is attentive to the regulation of outer space especially as the Regional Center for Space Science and Technology for Western Asia is in Jordan. As space is so unknown there are many questions over who gets what space and what rights. The Regional Center for Space Science and Technology for Western Asia connected with the United Nations has worked with its four centers focused on education, training, research and technical projects with the main focus on space communications, meteorology, communications, and remote sensing. Jordan has worked with many United Nations affiliated organizations talking about the problems at hand and continues to lend its support. Space, both explored and unfamiliar, pose many questions, questions that the delegation of Jordan wants to help the United Nations answer.

The creation of the Regional Center for Space Science and Technology for Western Asia, which is located in Jordan, has helped to create curriculum used to teach more people about space and to prepare students for their careers in space science and technology. The curriculum created by the center can help not only Jordan and the Middle East but all members of the United Nations. The future of space exploration in Jordan is held in the youth which is why Jordan has done so much to help educate students and foster the urge to help solve the problems in space. The Regional Center for Space Science and Technology for Western Asia also offers many academic programs in topics such as space communication and atmospheric science as well as the center offers a wide variety of training programs.

Jordan appreciates the connection that the United States and NASA have with Jordan. In 2016 Jordan became the first country in the Middle East to form an International Internship Agreement with NASA. The agreement with NASA is an amazing opportunity for youth in Jordan, and we hope it will set precedent for more agreements to be made not only between Jordan and NASA but other members of the Middle East as well. Internships in the United States with NASA is an excellent way for students in Jordan to expand on their education. While Jordan has an amazing education opportunity in fields concerning outer space and engineering, being able to work with such a large program like NASA is a gift for many students. Jordan agrees with NASA that large advancement in the exploration of space and planets such as Mars will only succeed if done with the help of many nations. Jordan hopes to help this effort as well as other movements in the future. In 2016 Jordan launched our first satellite, The JY1-SAT. This satellite while only a small cube satellite, is the first step of many to increasing Jordan's activity in space. The satellite was designed and built by students and launched by the United States. Jordan is very grateful to the United States for their assistance in the launching of the satellite. Launching the satellite was an unimaginable gift to the students who built the satellite. The JY1-SAT contains images of Jordan and a message of peace from Crown Prince Hussein that can be listened to on the ground. The satellite

was the start to what Jordan hopes will not only be a great teaching opportunity but will also be a great space exploration program.

Jordan agrees that there are many aspects of space travel and safety that need to be discussed, and while Jordan does have ideas on how these can best be solved, Jordan acknowledges that as of now the space travel program in Jordan is smaller than those of some of the other members of the United Nations. Jordan will support the United Nations and Jordan's allies in coming to a productive and effective agreement. Jordan has supported the other resolutions made by the United Nations concerning space and will continue to do so. Jordan believes that educating the youth to be our future in space is very important. Jordan believes that the United Nations should continue to work as a whole to delegate space activities. Jordan has worked to establish curriculum and would like to not only continue the work using these programs but also creating more curriculum about other parts of space. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan looks forward to reaching an agreement with the United Nations to effectively help regulate commercial activities in outer space.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is honored to be present in discussing the pressing issue of finding a long term method of storage or way to dispose of hazardous nuclear waste. We intend to do this in a peaceful and productive manner in order to come to the most effective resolution possible. The delegation of Jordan is fully aware of the severity of this issue. Using nuclear energy is seen as a favorable alternative to other energy sources such as fossil fuels to many. It is exceptionally clean and efficient, and many think it could be a way to counteract climate change. However, with nuclear energy being made from the splitting of highly radioactive uranium atoms, there is no doubt that nuclear energy certainly has its setbacks. A secure long term method of storage or way of disposing of this dangerous material is essential in order for the world to continue using nuclear energy.

Even as a small, developing nation, Jordan has made many efforts to work towards a solution to this significant issue, with the most notable being a nuclear waste storage facility that was built in 2010. The storage facility holds 500 meters of low and intermediate level radioactive waste for up to 50 years and was funded by the United States. Jordan's facility is relatively small and only houses waste produced by Jordan as Jordan has been slowly moving towards using nuclear power in hopes of eliminating the water and economic challenges the country is currently facing. As nuclear energy becomes more prominent in Jordan, Jordan plans on continuing using this method of storage since it has been working well for the country since the facility was built in 2010. Jordan has also devoted a great deal of effort into keeping this extremely hazardous waste protected while it is storage. Jordan has attended multiple Nuclear Security Summits since 2010. At these summits, Jordan has made progress in collaboration with a number of other nations on a variety of issues concerning nuclear security such as countering smuggling of nuclear waste and creating education and training initiatives. Jordan believes participating in events like these is essential to keeping storage facilities for nuclear waste safe and protected.

While Jordan supports the use of nuclear energy as well as long term storage facilities, one of Jordan's biggest concerns is keeping these facilities safe and secure. The Jordanian delegation stresses that Jordan does not believe a resolution is complete if it does not contain clauses protecting the safety of nuclear

waste storage facilities. Nuclear waste is extremely harmful when used in the wrong ways. Because of Jordan's geographic location in relation to terrorist groups, Jordan is largely at risk for this hazardous waste to get into the hands of members of these groups. Jordan approves the use of long term storage facilities as long as the waste contained in them is properly protected. Jordan is willing to work with other delegations in order to come to a resolution that will find a solution to this urgent issue of finding a long term solution of radioactive waste that will satisfy the wishes of the countries present.

Delegation From: The Republic of Korea
Represented by: St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

Position Paper for SPECPOL

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Between the Karman Line

Interactive activities between countries in outer space has been going on for quite some time. Initially, there was no true sense of authoritative manner because there were no regulation of the event itself. That is until 1967 where the Outer Space Treaty was created. The treaty created by the UN General Assembly was meant to regulate what was being traded and put into Earth's orbit but many remarks show that the treaty is merely ineffective, and has no true impact on the commercial activities that go on today. For example, there has found to be more than a million pieces of debris found in Earth's orbit affecting trade routes and also the monitoring of these trades. Rules need to be specified and enforced in The Outer Space Treaty or any other document to be created to discipline these actions.

The delegation of Iran has chosen not to be a complete party for the treaty. Instead, the country has just signed off on it but not completely ratified the documents. The country of Iran agrees with the ideals of the treaty and the need for monitoring trade & activities for the well being and safety of earth's orbit, but would rather see a reformed version of the documents with more clear guidelines and laws as to how all countries can work together to make these communications and trades between each other respectful to the laws. Iran is not the only country with these opinions. Other developing countries also have the same stance regarding the treaty as Iran. All countries though, are in some degree of agreeance with the treaty.

Iran has many strong plans when it comes to this issue but we also believe in collaboration with other nations. It is clear that the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 is not tangible for all countries, therefore a new one should be put in place. Therefore, in this committee we must start from scratch and build an agreement that will mutually benefit every country as a whole. A new treaty would be used to accompany all the needs of both developed and developing countries. The delegation of Iran is eager to hear all the ideas and proposals that will be brought out in this General Assembly.

II. The long term storage or disposal of nuclear waste

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on the planet. There are not yet any permanent solutions put in place to get rid of these weapons safely. It is unrealistic for the world to be completely nuclear weapon free, although many would encourage this. Such weapons are responsible for terrible disasters like wiping out entire cities from one bomb. These disasters result in long term effects such as radiation and effects the lives of inhabitants, decades after the disaster. The United Nations secretariat supports and seeks goals to completely get rid of nuclear weapons and looks to save humanity. Countries such as Kyrgyzstan are suffering from the

aftermath of radioactive waste being dumped into the rivers in small towns during WW2. The citizens use the rivers as their main source of water and are suffering with cancer and losing people to this helpless fight each and every day.

Iran remains apart of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons treaty and they work alongside France and Germany to influence other countries to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons among each other. In 2005 the IAEA investigated Iran in non-compliance with their safeguard agreements, and 7 resolutions were passed requiring them to discontinue the enrichment and bettering of their nuclear weapons. Iran met with the P5+1 and Iran yielded the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in July 2015, a comprehensive 25-year nuclear agreement limiting Iran's nuclear capacity in exchange for sanctions relief.

The delegation is committed to finding a relatively quick and permanent solution to aiding in the permanent disposal of hazardous weapons. This begins with putting in place an immediate transparency pact requiring countries to be accountable for all of the weapons they have in the form of a database. Actions must be taken quickly to ensure the safety of those affected around the globe due to radiation and its effects. It is recognized that these actions also call upon financial assistance but will lead to a more sustainable community as a whole.

Delegation of Lebanon

Represented by North Royalton High School

**Position Paper for the General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and
Decolonization**

The issues before the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly are Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. Lebanon believes in equal access for economic opportunities in space and increased global regulation of the proper disposal of nuclear waste.

Topic A: Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line

Lebanon was once heavily involved in the history of space travel; among the countries of the Middle East Lebanon was the first to design rockets capable of moving into space. Prior to the civil war, this was a great pride of the nation, and there was even a commemorative stamp printed. The Lebanese space program was cancelled after the director decided that the spying, violence, and general politics of the trade of rockets was simply too much. This very situation is the greatest fear of the Lebanese delegation, and it is the the greatest hope of the Lebanese delegation that we, united as one, may stand against violence, tyranny, and the militarization of space.

The Lebanese government would greatly benefit, as would many of the less powerful nations of the world, from an international space program not of the formation of new methods of space enterprise, but rather in the regulation of existing enterprise. Seeing the power that a company can have, and its effect, ought to bring some weariness to the notion of pure free trade. Certainly, if a corporation were given full access to space, they would quickly create an effective monopoly. The Lebanese Delegation hopes that we can work to prevent any monopolizing or else any other form of corporatism that shall hurt the people or governments of the world. With fully governmental control of space, however, countries such as Lebanon, which tend to have a smaller voice in the world, being unaided by threats of violence, will be unable to truly profit and gain from the commerce of space. The second great hope of the Lebanese delegation is to promote equality within and beyond space.

Topic B: The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The delegation of Lebanon recognizes the potential danger of Middle Eastern nuclear programs; even when the waste is not used to fuel a weapon of war, oftentimes it is poorly managed and ends up harming innocent civilians. As Lebanon has in the past had issues regarding the safe disposal of waste, we hope to encourage the rest of the delegations of the council to not merely disregard nuclear programs as a source of clean energy or as a potential threat, but rather to see the whole of the issue and choose what is best for the future of every country: regulation.

Delegation from: Mexico

Represented by Beachwood High School

Position Paper for Special Political and Decolonization Committee

The issues before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee are: Finding a compromise as to how to regulate commercial activities beyond the Karman line, as well as solutions for long term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. Mexico is dedicated to these issues at hand and hope for future cooperation between the different nations of the world.

I: Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line

The Kármán line is an approximate location of where the Earth's atmosphere ends and outer space begins. Instituted fairly recently, it is a hot topic for discussion as many countries are trying to launch missions into space. With the addition of the Karman Line, it becomes harder for countries to claim what is theirs and in their jurisdiction. There are many treaties required to regulate commerce in space and beyond the Karman Line, of which many can be confusing. There are satellites, space mining expeditions, and many other commercial ventures in space and regulating them is a primary concern.

Civil navigation in the air space over Mexican territory is mainly governed by the provisions of the Civil Aviation Law and different treaties. In many discussions about regulating commerce in outer space, officials have made calls for peace, cooperation, harmony, and safety of civil air transport. Mexico is part of the five Treaties governing outer space adopted by the United Nations, and strongly believes in those values. Today, there are not only drones, but suborbital flights, stratospheric balloons, small satellites, and many other items floating around in space. What is important for Mexico as well as many other nations, is to safeguard these objects in space and regulate commerce through legal control mechanisms. The Mexican Space Agency (AEM), in charge of leading the space policy according to the law creating the AEM has drafted proposed laws to try to make a change in the way things operate currently. The AEM also provide lectures and educate the public on all aspects of space. Delegations from Mexico have attended numerous conferences to debate topics about space exploration, and always look forward to new conventions to come to solutions on issues related to commercial activities in space.

Mexico would like to see more cooperation with other countries to make a better world. Mexico believes in the ability to make change, and it proposes a new treaty regulating commerce beyond the Karman line, and also holding international conventions each year to discuss the many satellites and objects individual countries have in space. Mexico looks forward to working with all countries to reach a compromise on this issue.

II: The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The radwaste generation data in Mexico start from the 50's, coming from the application of radioactive materials in industry, research and medicine, to a few decades later from the generation of nuclear power. In 1955, The Commission of Nuclear Energy (CNEN) was the first governmental organism with regulatory functions on nuclear aspects. Also, the CNEN assumed all types of responsibilities on research, training, mining and milling of uranium ores, nuclear fuel business and radwaste management. In 1972 the CNEN was substituted by the National Institute of Nuclear Energy (INEN), which established the Radiation Protection Committee whose functions were to inspect and to implement standards, regulations and guides on radiation protection.

Mexico currently has 2 nuclear reactors generating 4% of its total energy. Mexico is rich in hydrocarbon resources. It is increasingly reliant on natural gas, particularly from the USA, and this is central in its energy policy. The Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) has invested in new gas-fired plants and converting coal plants to gas. In addition it is investing in intermittent renewables, and promoting the construction of major natural gas pipelines. The 2015 Energy Transition Law sets a target of 35% of electricity to be from clean sources, including nuclear, by 2024. In 2016, 319 TWh was generated, 20% from clean sources. In 2014, of 300 TWh, gas supplied 172 TWh, oil 33 TWh, coal 34 TWh, hydroelectric 29 TWh and nuclear 9.7 TWh. Per capita power use in 2013 was 2040 kWh. Of the total 64 GWe capacity in 2012, nuclear was 1.4 GWe (gross), hydro 11.5 GWe, geothermal 0.8 GWe and the balance fossil fuels, mainly gas. Capacity is projected to increase to 86 GWe by 2025.

The government of Mexico, through the Ministry of Energy is responsible for the storage and disposal of nuclear fuels and radioactive waste irrespective of their origin. The Energy Ministry is beginning to take administrative and budgetary steps to create a national company to manage its radioactive waste. It is also planning to sign the IAEA Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, but had not done so by mid-2016. The Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) is being established for CFE at Laguna Verde, using Holtec HiStorm FW canisters on a pad large enough for 130 of them. An engineered near-surface disposal site for low-level waste (LLW) operated at Piedrera between 1985 and 1987. In that time, 20,858m³ of waste was stored. A collection, treatment and storage centre for LLW has operated at Maquixco since 1972.

The National Commission on Nuclear Safety and Safeguards (CNSNS) is a semi-autonomous body under the authority of the Ministry of Energy which takes the role of regulator. CNSNS is responsible for ensuring the proper application of regulations and safeguards for nuclear and radiation safety and for physical protection of nuclear and radiological installations to ensure public safety. CNSNS is also responsible for revising, evaluating and approving the criteria for the siting, design construction operation and decommissioning of nuclear installations, proposing the relevant regulations. It has the power to amend or suspend the licenses of nuclear facilities, which are granted on CNSNS approval through the Ministry of Energy. Mexico has ratified the IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety. Mexico looks forward to working with all the other countries on this issue.

Delegation From: Pakistan

Represented by: Laurel School

Position Paper for The United Nations General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization

The issues presented before the GA4 SPECPOL committee is regulating commercial activities in ‘Outer Space’ and the long term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. Pakistan is eager to collaborate and come up with a solution for these pressing issues.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities in ‘Outer Space’

The issue of regulating commercial activity beyond the Karman line is one in which Pakistan is deeply invested, as much of intergalactic commerce is either directly related to that of Pakistan -- especially in regards to the nation’s economy -- or affects it in some external way. Many commercial space systems and activities, such as satellite servicing, among other things, are currently regulated under neither international nor domestic policies. This leaves a vital need for this policy, especially in how it affects safety of anything and anyone sent into space, as well as economic implications of such. Cooperation on this subject is immensely important in that to create a secure and stable interstellar environment, the current lack of regulation on commercial activity beyond the Karman line cannot continue to be.

As a nation, Pakistan currently accedes to the Outer Space Treaty, otherwise known as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and all measures of bylaw as a part of such. The nation has many satellites that the country hopes to see better protected in the future through international regulation efforts. Upon deployment of Paksat-1R in November of 2011, Pakistan became one of the few countries globally with communication satellites in orbit. Actions such as this have created access to a world of advanced satellite technology with immense economic impacts. Our country has long followed a dualist system, integrating international treaties into our own national law, which is why we hope to look to an international standard in space activities the country has been undertaking for years. We hope to collaborate to create this as our country has offered increasingly great levels of satellite communication service.

Beyond actions already taken, though Pakistan firmly believes more must be done in an effort to regulate intergalactic commercial activity. Seeing as many of said activities are not currently regulated on a level higher than domestic, an international standard, or otherwise a set of guidelines, needs to be set for interspace commercial activity to improve the state of ventures beyond the Karman line. This will benefit the state of international relations in that it creates another level of commonality among nations looking to undertake expansionism beyond atmospheric bounds, fostering not only a greater sense of security in undertaking these pursuits but also a greater sense of cooperation, as opposed to competition where these ventures are concerned. The nation seeks to maintain the advantages of commercial activities, and to make them open to all involved in future international legislation on such, in hopes to ensure the security and equality of the pursuit.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan urges the consideration of the pressing issue of the long term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. As the seventh country to successfully develop and test nuclear weapons and the first Muslim country to construct and operate civil nuclear power plants, it is important to take into account the end of the nuclear fuel cycle. In July of 2013, the Pakistani Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved of new nuclear power projects that were designed to set Pakistan on the path of energy independency, reduce reliance on oil and energy costs. The expansion of nuclear green energy is the most integral element of Pakistan's energy policy. There are two main levels of nuclear waste threat. The first is the low level waste resulting from uranium ore processing. Only a few fractions of a kilogram of uranium are extracted out of tons of the ore. The second, and the more pertinent of the concerns, which is in thousands of tons, contains low level radioactivity, and poses health risks to people exposed to it. Radon gas is the main source of risk

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano has commended Pakistan in its efforts to manage nuclear waste. The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has enforced rigorous standards and forces the observances of standards that respects the protection of human health, the environment and beyond national borders. Appropriate and adequate radioactive waste management systems were designed for the Karachi Nuclear Power Complex (KANUPP) and Chashma Nuclear Power Complex (CHASNUPP) sites to remove radioactive waste arising from the plants. The radioactive waste management systems collect, store, allow sufficient radioactive decay and process the waste through filtration, ion exchange, evaporation, solidification, vitrification and drumming. The PAEC have also initiated nuclear fuel cycle activities with a modest prospecting programme dating back since early 1960s, and these activities have since then, expanded in both areas of expertise and ability to relocate and dispose of nuclear waste more safely.

The biggest cause of alarm is the health of citizens and the environment around nuclear waste disposal sites. Pakistan have shifted from open disposition of the waste ended to placing barrels inside residential barracks and abandoned mines while other wastes are buried underground. However, such arrangements, although improved the quality of life of residents around the sites significantly, still do not seem to stop nuclear radiation from polluting the surroundings. Health-related problems common in the area are mainly the result of radon gas. Many newborns remain severely underweight; a number of children suffer from bone deformities and paralysed limbs; children and animals are experiencing abnormal growth and increased cases of cancer. Pakistan have since began working on initiatives of finding and locating disposal areas that are much more isolated and secure. A number of promising areas were located, some of which are presently being explored. An ore processing plant, using indigenous ore, is currently in operation. Essential laboratory facilities were also built to support the exploration and ore process development work.

*Delegation from: The Republic of Poland
Represented by: Rocky River High School*

Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly (SPECPOL) on Special Political and Decolonization

The cases before the United Nations General Assembly (SPECPOL) on Special Political and Decolonization are: Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line; and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. The Republic of Poland is invested in raising the international measurement of where the Karman line begins and continuing current research and beginning research in other countries on the safe and protective long term storage and disposal of nuclear waste.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line

The Republic of Poland is in support of raising the measurement as to where the Karman line begins and finds it unnecessary to keep the line where it currently is or to lower it in reference to other international countries. The question in relation to this topic deals with the idea of differentiating spheres among the world and the differing space research and limitations of each delegation. Poland claims any future laws to be made regarding the regulation of commercial activities beyond the Karman line to be unnecessary due to the fact that no legal and political issues have arisen regarding the absence of said potential laws. Rather, Poland believes instead of regulating commercial activities beyond the Karman line, the delegations should band together to raise it so the need for regulations will not be a necessity. Many other delegations face the issue in the retrospective light of freedom of airspace, scientific research, and even ability of air forces pertaining to said countries. The Republic of Poland is in support of keeping the international definition of the Karman line defined amongst the world as 180 kilometers above sea level, due to the many different situations that each country is currently facing in relations to their space programs, air force programs, and potential scientific research.

Poland has had many recent and past advances with its role in commercial activities among and around space. The Polish government has aided countries from around the world through its technically advanced scientific instruments and inventions. Many Polish inventors have become major specialists in sectors of the space industry. Some of the best examples of these incredible advances and partnerships are Poland's role in the Huygens/Cassini, Venus/Mars Express or Rosetta space missions. The Republic of Poland has a special role in the situation of the Karman line due to its new-found relations with the United States of America, a major power in the space race. The Polish State Agency press released the information that Poland is hoping for the development of projects for space missions and research cooperation in the field of space technologies between Poland and the United States of America. The United States has already shown its position on the issue of the Karman line, which is the wish to not limit the Karman line to an international definition by all countries. The Republic of Poland generally agrees with this stance. Due to the potential and current relations between the United States and the Republic of Poland, the country calls for the opportunity to impose the legal obligations for the Karman line to be raised yet no legal punishments/limitations for any countries wishing to research in space beyond that line.

The delegation of the Republic of Poland calls for all other countries affected by this topic to induct a resolution stating that, due to differing world spheres and space advancements of each country, the Karman line should be raised to 180 kilometers by international law, yet it should not be a limitation to any country wishing to experiment with space research and potential military/air force research beyond this line. Poland is currently conducting research and hoping for future research with multiple other countries in regards to space and calls for other countries to do the same as to learn more about the abilities each country has in regards to what they can do in space and show the abilities of activities beyond the Karman line. As no political or legal issues have currently arisen with the limited definition of the Karman line, there is a very unlikely possibility of any issues to arise with the raising of the line as it would not negatively affect any country, whether they wish to participate in commercial activities beyond

the Karman line or not. Poland names this potential resolution R.I.A.N.L. (the regulating of international airspace limitations not pertaining to beyond the limit). The Republic of Poland calls for this resolution to be adopted by other delegations due to the lack of problems that have arisen from no legal laws pertaining to the height of the Karman line or commercial activities beyond it.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The Republic of Poland finds that it is necessary to bring more protective and safe measures regarding the long term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste amongst developed or current developing countries dealing with nuclear research and advancements. Poland is committed to safe management of radioactive waste and sees multiple areas for further enhancement in not only its own program but also in multiple ones around the world. Due to the country of Poland's great advancements in the nuclear field, it has also taken great caution when it comes to clearing the land of the nuclear waste and carefully disposing and storing any hazardous substance coming from the country.

Poland has issued many of its resources in the safe storage and disposal of hazardous waste in pertains to its nuclear program. The delegation of the Republic of Poland issued a mission with ARTEMIS (The Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation) hosted by the Ministry of Energy, with the participation of state waste management organization ZUOP and the National Atomic Energy Agency (PAA) which is responsible for nuclear radiation safety regulation in the country, in Poland for 10 days on October 10th. The mission to Poland was the first requested by a European Union Member State and was put in place with the aim of meeting EU obligations for the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel. The Republic of Poland has already done multiple things in the past to deal with said issue of managing radioactive waste and spent fuel; including, the revising of plans approved in 2014 relating to the development of a nuclear power program by the Polish government. The country has been and currently is a leading figure in the correct fulfillment of the long term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste, "Poland has most of the elements in place for the national program for managing radioactive waste and spent fuel, in particular for safe predisposal management. Our review highlights Poland's strengths as well as the areas where room for improvement has been identified," this achievement is recognized by the team leader of ARTEMIS, Jussi Heinonen, Director of Nuclear Waste and Material Regulation at STUK, the Finnish nuclear regulator. ARTEMIS has also claimed that the republic of Poland has been successfully carrying out the operations for the predisposal management of radioactive waste and has also stated that Poland is well aware of the steps needed to ensure development and implementation of a national plan for the safe management of radioactive waste and spent fuel. This issue of the long term storage and disposal of hazardous nuclear waste is important to the government of Poland and its Ministry of Energy due to Poland's future plans of constructing and operating a near-surface disposal facility for low and intermediate-level radioactive waste by the year 2025.

The delegation of the Republic of Poland proposes a plan that ensure that all governments of all other delegations ensure that research and development is undertaken to support the implementation of national plans for waste management in a timely manner, a plan that includes yearly safety assessments of nuclear facilities to ensure that all countries affected by this issue are properly storing and disposing of hazardous nuclear waste, and a plan that includes the monitoring of each countries nuclear program by the other delegations to ensure that everything is dealt with in a timely manner and that the country has met all the requirements for the ability to continue future nuclear research. The storage of these hazardous wastes will be held by the governments of each country and be funded by the government and the people of the country through charitable organizations and fundraisers. The best available way to protect the hazardous waste storages in each country is to pass an amendment regarding the preservation of these storages, similar to the preservations of national parks. This will prevent any future generations and leaders from getting rid of or messing up the storages and plans for a safer Earth. Poland has declared this resolution to be called T.P.S.D.N. (timely preparations for safe storage and disposal of nuclear waste) in hopes that other delegations will come together to ensure the safety of the future world of nuclear research.

***Delegation from: the Republic of Korea
Represented by: Rocky River High School***

Position Paper for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee

The issues before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee are: Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman line; and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. The Republic of Korea is dedicated to protecting all citizens and is eager to continue working with other nations as well as private and public corporations to further protect these citizens.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line.

Space exploration is one of the most forthcoming topics being explored by countries around the world. But, with the many opportunities space provides come many questions about how commercial activity beyond the dividing line between the atmosphere and space, the Karman Line, should be regulated. Below this border, commercial activity is clearly regulated above every country, but above the Karman Line, there are no specific laws regulating commercial activity. With the recent expansion in the interest in the use of space for activities including commercial interactions, it is vital to regulate commercial activity beyond this line to ensure that conflict will not arise between private companies or governments.

The Republic of Korea supports the regulation of any vessel launched into space by a Korean citizen inside or outside of Korean borders. The Republic of Korea has established the National Space Committee, chaired by the Minister of Science and Technology (MOST), in order to deliberate provisions regarding space development including developing the basic plan for space regulation. In addition, the Republic of Korea is currently implementing the Space Development Promotion Act which entails 1) their basic plan for space regulation; 2) the assessment of the government's role; 3) the administration of Space Development Institutes; 4) the assessment of space development projects; 5) the generation of necessary financial resources; 6) the regulation of launch permits; 7) the modification of space development activities; and 8) other provisions submitted to the National Space Committee. Under this act, Korea also requires all registered Korean space objects to be registered with the United Nations. The Republic of Korea has also developed the Middle and Long-Term National Space Development Basic Plan (the Space Basic Plan) whose goal is to strengthen international cooperation in space exploration, including the use of space for commercial affairs, and to research and develop new technologies for space use.

The Republic of Korea would like to see peaceful cooperation in the use of outer space beyond the Karman line, wherever that may be established, for any use, including commercial activity. South Korea proposes a resolution consisting of a set of international laws specifying the allowance and regulation of space objects. In addition to supporting the currently implemented International Cooperation in the Peaceful Use of Outer Space, South Korea would like to establish the requirement for all commercial flights to be registered and approved by the flight's origin country based on the international laws. South Korea would also like to propose a set of treaty negotiations concerning peaceful future space exploration. These negotiations would implement international laws that would regulate how to divide territory in space and who would have priority over areas in space. These laws proposed by the Republic of Korea would help to mitigate any future conflicts over space exploration and territory before the problems arise.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste.

Nuclear energy currently is one of the most-efficient energy sources available for usage. However, the storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste has presented a critical issue to be addressed. If hazardous waste is not disposed of properly, there is a high risk of dangerous chemicals contaminating the groundwater of the region, which can affect the civilians living in the area. Additionally, harmful gases can be emitted into the atmosphere if this waste is not safely disposed of. High-level waste that is left over from the consumption of effective power generation has no place to cool safely at the moment.

The Republic of Korea faces this issue as well, as with the recent rapid industrialization and urbanization of the nation, there has been an increase in the generation of hazardous waste. With little space to dispose of this waste safely, it has become increasingly difficult to find a solution to this issue. At the moment, the Republic of Korea has implemented a series of plans involving 1) the direct control of the management of hazardous waste by the government; 2) the handling of waste managed with consideration of the biological and environmental impact in order protect both civilians and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation; 3) the reduction of radioactive waste; 4) a principle of having a radioactive waste generator pay for their part in the generation of radioactive waste; and 5) the cooperation of both the private and federal sectors in order to mitigate this issue. In addition, South Korea has passed the Nuclear Safety Act (NSA), which is the main law concerning safety regulations for hazardous waste. The NSA is essentially a plan regarding a plan for nuclear safety as well as the construction of potential reactors and other facilities. This plan also defines radioactive waste as any radioactive materials or those contaminated, including spent fuel. The Republic of Korea has also passed the Waste Management Law (WML). Because of the limited space available in South Korea, the plan focuses on reducing hazardous waste altogether among other issues. As a result of plans such as these, South Korea has seen its landfill rates drop from over 90% to under 10%, decreasing in favor of its recycling rates growing from under 10% to over 80%. While South Korea does plan on reducing waste, it has also developed an underground low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste disposal facility located in Wolseong. It is the first of its kind in Asia, costing \$1.56 billion dollars. The first phase of this project was completed in 2014 and is located approximately 80 to 130 meters below sea level, holding six underground silos. The second phase will be completed later this year and will be a near-surface repository capable of holding 125,000 drums of radioactive waste. Combined, the entire facility will be able to store 800,000 drums of waste over the next sixty years before it is sealed off. This facility is operated by the Korea Radioactive Waste Agency (KORAD) and has been mostly successful in storing and disposing of radioactive waste in recent years.

As a result of the successes within the country, the Republic of Korea strongly urges for a resolution to be passed involving underground facilities. South Korea proposes a series of plans like those already implemented within the country. The proposed solution would allow for the direct control of hazardous waste by the government, considering the biological and environmental effects of such waste, the reduction of waste altogether, and the cooperation of the private and government sector. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea would like to propose an “aggressor pays” initiative in order to hold those who contribute to the problem responsible for the negative impacts on the environment. Additionally, South Korea proposes to include regulations that would reduce hazardous waste altogether. Furthermore, the international community should require individual nations to submit plans on the reduction of hazardous waste. There is an urgent need for a permanent disposal facility, which should be discussed by the UN. Communities surrounding high-level waste (HLW) storage should be involved in the process of the facility as well, as they are highly affected by the facility. Furthermore, as the life of radioactive waste is hundreds of thousands of years, it is important to include symbols or pictograms such as the universal symbol of death, a skull and crossbones, in order to ensure HLW storage sites remain untouched even after they are forgotten by future generations.

The delegation from: The Russian Federation

Represented by: St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

Position Paper for the General Assembly, Fourth Committee:

Special Political and Decolonization

The two topics before the General Assembly, Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization: Regulating Commercial Activities in ‘Outer Space’ and the Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. The Russian Federation hopes to collaborate with other nations to work toward the resolution of these issues.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities in ‘Outer Space’

Russia has a strong history in the field of space exploration. We are proud of our work in pioneering the understanding of the last frontier. The history of Russia’s space program is filled with milestones important to space exploration. Our predecessor, the Soviet Union, whose space program we inherited, sent both the first man and woman into space. Not only this but a Russian cosmonaut, Alexei Leonov did the first spacewalk. The space programs have been a symbolic olive branch between nations. After the space race, although political tensions have risen between country, space programs have continued to work and advance together for the greater good of research and space exploration.

Russia has taken proactive measures in making legislation for space activities. The legislation created by the Russian Federation covers a variety of topics, including those relating to private industry in outer space. An example of the regulations laid out includes the need for a license before carrying out space activities for either scientific or national-economic purposes. Space technology must also be certified. Consequences and safety measures are also laid out in these rulings. Together, these policies can help create an outline for the future of space travel. We must also leave room for adaptation and the creation of new bills to further society’s use of space and its resources.

Legislation such as that already constructed by the Federation of Russia will be helpful to the future of outer space activities and exploration. By creating these national charters, the international community can craft policies fitting for each nation. We can cooperate with non-governmental organizations in space, as well as, the growing demand for outer space innovation. We encourage other countries to adopt similar charters and regulations. Outer space is a topic that has encouraged cooperation between countries, including those with political tensions in the past, and we hope it will continue to do this today.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The delegation of the Russian Federation recognizes that nuclear energy is argumentatively one of the safest and most efficient forms of energy available to us presently. However, these circumstances do not mean the use of radioactive materials to create this energy source does not present issues. When the process of fission can no longer take place because the material is not radioactive enough, it becomes high-level waste, also known as HLW, which there are currently no long-term storage centers. This waste has an extremely long life, as plutonium emits radiation for over 100,000 years, and ever since the start of nuclear energy, there has been a tremendous amount of waste. The UN estimates that there is over 240,000 tons of nuclear waste, a colossal amount of harmful substances to safely store for that substantial of a time.

The issue presented to this committee is especially important to the Russian Federation, as Russia is the world's third largest user of nuclear energy and by 2050 half of our energy will be produced through nuclear reactors. With this massive use of nuclear energy, the Russian Federation will produce a large amount of nuclear waste. Armed to deal with this problem, the Russian Federation has vast tracts of uninhabited or nearly uninhabited land in areas not suitable to human life where nuclear waste could be stored. Because of our natural ability to hold nuclear waste, in 2001 the Russian Federation agreed to export, store, process, and dispose of over 22,000 tons of nuclear waste from other nations. Using the funds the Russian Federation gained from this program, Russia has been committed to cleaning up nuclear waste from the Soviet era. Russia is in the process of cleaning up its nuclear dump centers. These centers include Russia's largest near the Norwegian border that has over 22,000 elements of waste.

The Russian Federation is eager to work with other nations to address this issue more entirely than it has in the past. Multi-country collaboration is vital while trying to solve this issue, as it is incredibly intricate. Every nation is affected by how this waste is stored or disposed of in the future. The Russian Federation would like to consider starting a series of summits to further discuss this topic with a variety of international groups and countries. Russia would also like to set a clear rule for the disposal of nuclear waste and create a system of incentives to recognize those in place. Furthermore, the Russian Federation would like to continue its program of importing nuclear waste due to our ability to safely dealing with the HLW. The Russian Federation wishes to hear and collaborate with a multitude of different ideas to improve the strength and build on past solutions.

*Delegation from: The Republic of South Sudan
Represented by Strongsville High School*

**Position Paper for the General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and
Decolonization**

The issues presented before the United Nations Security Council are: (1) Regulating Commercial Activities in ‘Outer Space’ (2) Long-term Solutions to High-Level Radioactive Waste.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities in ‘Outer Space’

The history of human expansion is remarkable, going from a few cities in fertile river valleys thousands of years ago to today speaking of colonizing space, an area the ancients only could dream of. Although today we today speak of ‘human’ expansion and ‘global’ expansion, there is a very limited group of nations who have the capability today to traverse space. Even fewer today are the private corporations who have spacefaring capabilities and those who can are based in the nations who can travel in space. Space travel currently is arduous, risky, and expensive. Currently, the Republic of South Sudan does not consider it a priority, due to both internal and external conflict occupying all of the resources of our nation. However, if the United Nations tackles this issue as a ‘globe’ all countries must eventually be given a chance at space. At the moment, the imbalance between the capabilities of developing and developed countries boasts a gap that will only continue to grow. When developed countries progress ahead without considering developing nations, the farther behind many countries will fall. Before beginning to implement ways of claiming celestial space, a pedestal must be given to both developing countries and countries without a viable space program. If the countries ready to begin exploring space start without care for others, then many countries will never even lift off the ground. Terrestrial land is limited but accountable. Celestial space is currently beyond what most Earth technology can accurately and fully catalogue, making a long-term system nearly impossible to keep track of.

Asteroids and celestial bodies challenge the standard definition and intuition of ‘land’ and property. All property here on Earth is stationary relative to all other terrestrial property. However, this all changes in space. Relative to the Earth, asteroids and other celestial bodies move around and orbit themselves at different rates. The position of a body at one point relative to the others can change, even if the body remains stationary. This causes an issue when trying to extend any form of ownership from Earth. Extending airspace does not work. The line demarcating space from Earth should be placed with consideration only to international issues,

e.g. scientific consensus and the height at which commercial planes fly as well as satellites. The line should not be for the benefit of one or a small group of countries, rather it must be a compromise among the world. This line should also demarcate where terrestrial ownership concepts end and extraterrestrial ownership concepts, which will be agreed upon by the committee begin.

II. Long-term Solutions to High-Level Radioactive Waste

High-level radioactive waste is a major problem facing all of humanity. It is an unfortunate side effect to an unfortunate trend, of using toxic methods to obtain energy and calling it 'clean.' Whatever has happened so far, however, has already happened and we must provide a solution. South Sudan is against the widespread use of nuclear energy because of the current instability in the world and the inability to store the waste it generates for long periods of time.

Any potential solution to the waste crisis will involve increasing stability in the world. Conflict must be reduced, and economies must be revitalized. The disposal of nuclear waste is a perfect opportunity to help this. More developed nations need to deposit their waste. They could potentially use the open land and open labor pool of less developed countries to deposit this waste, and therefore help those nation's economies prosper while having a necessary service performed. This would also encourage stability in the less developed countries, as global superpowers have the incentive to keep the region stable, and internal governments also want to keep the area stable in order to preserve the economy.

However, this solution can only work with the cooperation of all involved. There cannot be a country who simply backs out of this agreement without reason, for otherwise, this whole plan falls apart. Without a global solution, the global stability that this plan aims for is nullified.

Delegation from: The Kingdom Of Spain
Represented by: Campus International High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Committee

The issues presented to the United Nations Special Political and Decolonization are: Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line and the Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. The Kingdom of Spain is committed to developing well planned solutions for each of these problems in order to create a better place.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line

With technology in the aerospace industry constantly growing it is becoming increasingly important to find solutions to the problem at hand. Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line opens up several new possibilities. Currently, internet and gps companies operate outside of the Karman line. There are currently few UN programs in regard to international space trade.

The Kingdom of Spain has been actively involved in the international space scene and is an active participant in the European space agency. Spain has worked in collaboration with SpaceX and has launched a satellite with the primary purposes being commercial. Currently, Spain has no major investments in commercial activities beyond the Karman line, but does have some minor prospects, such as the aforementioned satellite.

For future trade, The Kingdom of Spain wishes to outline in detail the rules and regulations of commercial space activity. Suggesting specific parameters about the minimum and maximum amount of commercial operations per nation to keep the industry balanced. Using a centralized method of trade will help to simplify what could become a major issue. The Kingdom of Spain is hoping to create an open environment for commercial activities beyond the Karman line.

II. Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

Hazardous nuclear waste is extremely dangerous and needs to be handled and stored with caution. Across the world there is approximately 240,000 tons of nuclear waste being stored. The threat that nuclear waste holds is incredibly dangerous. Nuclear waste, when not handled in a proper manner, is fatal in direct human contact. There are several ways to dispose of nuclear waste: Underground disposal is a commonly used method but is only effective when executed safely, disposing of nuclear waste in space in a responsible manner. Although, not all of the available methods of disposal used are the safest, which is why that is a primary concern.

The Kingdom of Spain is involved in the critical issue of nuclear waste. Spain has 5 nuclear power plants and 7 nuclear reactors. As an effort to mitigate the issue Spain has begun to phase out nuclear power in exchange for more efficient energy. The Kingdom of Spain understands the dangerous implications of uncared for hazardous waste. In the past, Spain has made extensive efforts in action and research to help reduce and properly dispose of nuclear waste.

The Kingdom Of Spain is willing to continue efforts in creating new and more efficient ways of storing nuclear waste. Spain is committed to aiding other nations to create a more efficient way of energy use in order to reduce the amount of nuclear waste. Spain encourages all nations to start the reduction of their nuclear power and work towards renewable resources. This especially

encourages the developing nations to go straight towards using renewable energy sources instead of using nuclear energy. As for current nuclear waste, Spain believes it is imperative for other nations to join Spain in efforts towards creating sustainable measures of disposal and storage.

***Committee: General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization
Delegation from: Syrian Arab Republic
Represented by: Mayfield High School***

Position Paper for the General Assembly (GA4 SPECPOL)

The issues before the General Assembly 4th Committee include the regulation of commercial activities beyond the Karman line located in the thermosphere of Earth's atmosphere and the long-term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. The Syrian Arab Republic highly anticipates the forthcoming conversation regarding the issues and hopes for both issues to be solved swiftly and easily.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line

The regulation of commercial activities beyond the Karman line is a delineation the Syrian Arab Republic feels it necessary to keep from the infringement of the sovereignty of any given nation. Syria acknowledges the need for space exploration to be an international privilege, but to fly in the air space of another country, even 100 kilometers or more up, is a threatening and unfavorable position for countries to be in.

Aircraft technology is ever-evolving. As the Syrian Arab Republic does not have access to the new technology ideas different countries are working on, Syria feels that it is better to make laws that apply to future aircrafts than to have those technologies be released and then be put in a compromising position where foreign aircrafts are flying above Syria. To fly in this space without the approval of Syria is to disregard the wishes of a separate international power.

Recent air attacks on the Syrian Arab Republic have shown that not all countries respect these wishes, and Syria would like to help place and enforce laws that disallow any commercial activities by outside countries that could take place beyond the Karman line. There should be no exceptions except those of space travel, in which Syria will not be participating in and therefore there should be no commercial activities beyond the Karman line in the airspace above the Syrian Arab Republic.

The first step to creating these regulations involves the discussion of which commercial activities would have taken place if there were not any regulations, and why these commercial activities need to happen in the first place. The Syrian Arab Republic plans to argue against the need for the activities and also plans to give insight from a country that has no use for commercial activities in space.

II. The Long-Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The Syrian Arab Republic is acutely aware of the issue surrounding the long-term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. As a country with nuclear plants and reactors, Syria has had programs in place in the past to deal with the disposal of this waste, which lasted for 8 years, ending in 2007. Since Syria is currently a country surrounded by nuclear waste after the recent missile attacks from the United States, we find this issue as a pressing matter.

Syria suggests we stick to past methods of disposal which turned out to be effective, used by other countries such as temporary dry cask storage, as even though it is expensive it is extremely effective as it is much safer than pool storage and are less vulnerable to natural disasters. Scientists have even gone as far as to say that radiation has never leaked from them. Syria, however, will not provide the resources needed to dry cask nuclear waste. Syria believes that burden falls on the countries with the most resources to do so, such as the United States of America or the Russian Federation.

The Syrian Arab Republic also suggests the use of nuclear waste for powering spacecrafts and using the spacecrafts powered to launch nuclear waste from the earth in an attempt to not have nuclear waste be a concern of the planet. This would provide so much power as nuclear batteries could be made from an isotope in decaying plutonium found in nuclear waste.

Another suggestion we have is to dump the remaining nuclear reactors and radioactive waste into the ocean to avoid having to deal with it. This technique was used by the Soviets, however, this is a very hazardous idea as it is at risk of disruption and explosion which could cause consequences at a catastrophic level. This could also get in the way of valuable things found in the oceans, like natural resources such as oil, since it would get in the way of exploration of the oceans because of the fear of bumping a nuclear reactor or being exposed to radioactivity. It has also proved itself to be a difficult decontamination job due to aforementioned radioactivity. While this may not be the most efficient or unproblematic solution, it is better than keeping around humans at all time.

The Syrian Arab Republic plans on focusing its attention on this topic as our citizens are being impacted by nuclear waste on a daily basis, causing refugees to flee the country. We as a committee need to figure out what to do with this waste without impacting national sovereignty to help out all of the people being affected by it and suffering because of it.

Delegation From: Ukraine

Represented by: North Royalton High School

Position Paper for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee

The topics before the Special Political and Decolonization Committee are: Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line and the Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste. Ukraine is committed to updating current policies on the regulation of commercial activities beyond the Karman Line to include regulations for private companies and collaborating to ensure all that nations safely and properly store and dispose of nuclear waste.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line

Over the past hundred years, space exploration has boomed and the international use of the space beyond the Karman Line has been fairly unregulated. Through the State Space Agency of Ukraine, Ukraine has used the space beyond the Karman Line mainly for the purpose of research and supports more emphasis on that in the future, but does not believe that any further action needs to be taken in regulating the commercial activities beyond the Karman Line. The topic of space exploration has been declining since the “Space Race” between the United States and Soviet Union. Although commercial activities in space have declined overall, private companies have had increasing interest in various activities in space. Therefore, Ukraine believes that the issue of international activities beyond the Karman Line is no longer a pressing issue, but believes the issue of private companies in space to be applicable. Until today, Ukraine and fellow countries in the United Nations have been relying on international agreements to regulate commercial activities in space and it has been effective thus far.

The State Space Agency of Ukraine has taken many steps in forwarding research in space, advancing space technologies, and participated in space activities in the interest of national security. By focusing on improving technology and funding research in space, Ukraine has been able to gain knowledge about outer space just outside of the Earth’s atmosphere and the solar system. If commercial activities had been more regulated, then the State Space Agency of Ukraine and other space organizations would not have been able to achieve so many scientific breakthroughs. Ukraine’s concerns with commercial activities beyond the Karman Line are regarding national security and the use of space by private companies. Ukraine will not tolerate any activities that could potentially threaten its citizen or compromise the integrity of space exploration. Ukraine has demonstrated its support for the regulation of commercial activities beyond the Karman Line with the Outer Space Treaty, which it ratified in 1967. The Treaty prevents potentially destructive weapons and some military actions from being stationed in space, which Ukraine supports due to the potential threat to national security. The Outer Space Treaty also covers space exploration, but does not have a specific outline of rules covering the actions of private companies in space.

Ukraine wishes for a specific agreement to be drafted that regulates the activities of private companies in space. Even though Ukraine believes that the regulation of commercial activities beyond the Karman Line is not currently an imperative problem, it easily could be in the near future with the rise of private industry in space. In order to protect and preserve the space beyond

the Earth's atmosphere, there must be an updated international agreement that covers the issue of private companies in space. Ukraine believes that the United Nations ought to address the matter of private companies in space, but maintain all international agreements that are currently in place.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

Since 1957 when the first nuclear reactor was put into operation, questions regarding how to safely dispose of nuclear waste arose. Despite many different nations finding the solution of burying the waste underground as the best option, it has commonly faced fierce opposition from people living near these waste facilities. Because of previous nuclear accidents, many people believe living near a nuclear waste facility will harm their community. Ukraine believes that the underground storage of hazardous nuclear waste is the best and safest option to store it, and that nations around the world should join together to implement this system of storage.

With about half of Ukraine's power coming from its fifteen nuclear reactors, Ukraine acknowledges the importance of storing waste safely. In 2008, the National Target Environmental Program of Radioactive Waste Management was approved, stating that used fuel must be stored for fifty years until disposal, while also meeting the requirements set by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Atomic Energy Community. Ukraine has repeatedly worked with other nations to build and update their nuclear waste facilities, as they commonly lack insufficient funding to do so themselves. Since 2015, Ukraine, Sweden, and Norway have collaborated to ensure Ukraine's safe disposal of nuclear waste, including cooperating on projects to educate citizens, updating physical protections, modernising waste facilities, and transferring Soviet-era waste to a new storage center near Chernobyl. In 2008, the International Chernobyl Shelter Fund, in collaboration with G-8 nations and the European Union, provided funding for new safe confinement of nuclear waste in Ukraine. Finally, Ukraine currently has many nuclear waste storage centers, including the Vektor Industrial Complex, Chernobyl LRTP, and Chernobyl Industrial Complex for Solid Radioactive Waste Management, all supported by the European Union.

Ukraine hopes all delegations can work together to address proper nuclear waste management and storage. Ukraine hopes to work together with the United Nations to create an implementation plan suitable for all nations to safely dispose of nuclear waste through underground storage plants, and perhaps set up a funding system for those countries who cannot do it on their own. Since the facilities may be a security issue, Ukraine would also like to ensure all facilities are properly secured and staffed to react to any potential threats. Because these programs are likely to face opposition from the public, Ukraine would also like to create an education program for people around the world to understand what nuclear waste disposal really is and to show its long term benefits for all. Ukraine understands how important it is to properly dispose of hazardous nuclear waste, and would like to see a system implemented where every nation can safely do so without opposition.

***Delegation from: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Represented by: Strongsville High School***

Position Paper for the United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Fourth Committee

The issues before the United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Fourth Committee are: “Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman Line” and the “Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste”. The United Kingdom supports the involvement of the United Nations in maintaining international peace beyond planetary boundaries and in providing a stable, efficient method of securing nuclear waste in order to protect countries and their inhabitants.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities Beyond the Karman Line

Space travel, while relatively new in practice, is not only a growing field of research, but a booming industry. Since the great “Space Race” between the United States and the Soviet Union starting in 1955, countries around the globe have been tossing their hats into the ring of space colonization and commercialization. However, without limitations on exactly how far countries are allowed to traverse in the realm of commerce when sending aircrafts into space (past the Karman line and atmosphere), tensions could begin to arise *in terra*.

A developed country without a space program cannot expect to compete with the superpowers of the World (i.e. United States of America, Russia, China), and the United Kingdom is no exception. The British Space Programme is a government-sanctioned agency that strives to research and develop methods for space exploration. In 2014, the United Kingdom funded a plan known as the “British commercial spaceport” that would allow commercial space expeditions and satellite expenditures to depart from said port. Though the plan was shut down in 2016, efforts to normalize space travel by the British government are continuously underway. British ally United States of America has also been a catalyst in the commercialization of space, as private companies like SpaceX launch flights and missions above the atmosphere to conduct research and testing of their own, not sanctioned by the government. As per the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, the information discovered by the United Kingdom and the United States shall be shared for the benefit of humanity, and not kept under wraps for personal gain, further requiring such private institutions to bring forth any amount of significant research conducted to the government-run agencies to uphold the treaty.

The United Kingdom proposes to revisit the 1982 “Convention on the Law of the Sea”, a defining law in situating the disputes of international boundaries and economic zones per country within the great unknown frontier of the seas. As space is regarded as the “final frontier” or “the great unknown”, regulations should be put into place to provide an option for interstellar commerce and trade, should the events arise that such endeavors come into existence, as well as levels of distinction for maritime, air space, near space, and outer space travel. The United Kingdom also proposes that the line between “air space” and “outer space” remain at the Karman Line at 100 km that has been recognized by Fédération Aéronautique Internationale to remove issues the lowering the limit would cause for military testing of aircrafts operating in near-space zones.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

It is no secret that nuclear energy is one of the cleanest and most efficient sources of energy available, not only does it serve as an very efficient form of energy, it also can eliminate the use of carbon emission producing sources of energy and counter the ever growing threat of climate change. This does come with a very threatening disadvantage, however, and that is it creates hazardous nuclear waste. The problem is not the waste itself, rather, it's how to get rid of it.

The United Kingdom is no stranger to Nuclear Energy, as the United Kingdom contains about 15 reactors that generates about 21% of its electricity and construction has already started on a new generation of plants. The United Kingdom's current protocol in disposing most types of Radioactive waste are treating the waste, which includes: decontamination, shredding, compacting, drying, and solidifying the waste, the packaging of the Waste, which is then transported to storage facilities for disposal. When it comes to the issue of the disposal of HLW, the United Kingdom along with the United States of America, Finland, and France since the 1980's have been researching different methods regarding HLW disposal. The most promising solution that has been found is to bury all the waste underground in either man made facilities and or cave complexes. The United Kingdom seeks to continue in finding a more permanent, and safe, method in disposing HLW. Along with the other countries mentioned above, the United Kingdom agrees that the best way in disposing of HLW is through underground facilities, and the United Kingdom stresses this option as the best way, as other methods are either not as safe, or break international law, such as shooting nuclear waste into space.

The United Kingdom seeks the implementation of underground facilities as the best option of disposing HLW. The United Kingdom will also support other options as well, as long as it safe not only for the environment, but for the people as well. The United Kingdom hopes to see that this committee will recognize the importance of this issue, and as well support the construction of new waste disposal facilities throughout the world.

Delegation from The United States of America

Represented by: Amanda Tinnirello and Abby Whitmore

Position Paper for the Committee on Special Political and Decolonization

The issues presented to the Committee on Special Political and Decolonization are as follows: regulating commercial activities beyond the Karman line and the long term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. The United States is working to ensure the continued peace within space and to better dispose of nuclear waste.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line

In recent years, scientists have been debating over the placement and use of an imaginary line dividing Earth and space known as the Karman line. Currently, the Karman Line rests 100 kilometers above mean sea level where the atmosphere becomes too thin to support flight. Beyond the line from 160-2,000km, is classified as low Earth orbit (LEO). This is currently where man made objects like satellites can be found, but countries are discussing using this space for private commercialization.

The United States, United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union met in 1967 to establish the peaceful exploration and use of space for all countries and ban the use or placement of weapons of mass destruction, military action, or other weapons in space. The treaty created, known as the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, was signed by over 108 countries. Although the treaty was loosely written, it is under debate whether asteroid mining or private commercialization in LEO is acceptable under these terms. In 2018, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act was created in order to strength existing regulations for licensing commercial remote sensing systems and provide a minimalistic licensing system for other commercial space activities not already regulated in order to comply with the treaty. According to the US budget proposal, "[US] Begins transition to commercialization of low Earth orbit and ends direct federal government support of the International Space Station in 2025." The United States is already working towards funding the elimination of debris in space as well as commercializing LEO.

The United States stands firm in its belief that there is no practical or legal need for the definition of a universal space boundary. No conflicts or problems have risen in the absence of such a line, and there is no need to jeopardize the current relations. The United States suggests that the nations do not define the line internationally in order to prevent conflict. The United States proposes that LEO should be free to private commercialization as well as government use for all. In effort to keep LEO and the public safe from debris, each country should report a certain amount of debris clean up in order to allow private commeralization to remain an option. A special committee can be created to research and determine the amount of debris left in LEO and how much clean up there would require in order for it to be safe for private use. Lastly, the United States would like to propose a conference where countries can come together and add more structure to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty to clarify the standards and regulations inside that treaty, update the regulations with the creation of new technology, and to ensure that outer space remains free for all nations and peaceful. The special committee would report the data to this conference so all countries have the same information when determining how much government spending needs to be allocated to clearing debris. The United States hopes that a special committee on debris along with the conference to update the 1967 Outer Space Treaty can help clarify the regulations in space and ensure that all nations have the freedom to utilize LEO.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

Hazardous waste encompasses waste with qualities that make it unsafe or capable of harming humans and the environment. It is derived from a variety of sources including poisonous byproducts of manufacturing companies to septic systems. This hazardous waste needs to be stored and disposed of properly in order to ensure the safety of the environment and the human population around it. Various solutions to the problem of long term disposal have been introduced, but further regulations and solutions need to be implemented in order to ensure no plant, animal, or human alike is at risk.

The United States is dedicated to correctly and effectively storing and disposing of such hazardous waste. In 1976, the United States passed the The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which established how solid and liquid waste should be handled by granting full authority to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Furthermore, this act added a new land disposal restriction which required the EPA to diminish the toxicity of such wastes to minimize health risks. To this day, the Environmental Protection Agency has worked to install a solid method for dealing with hazardous waste. The EPA focuses on recycling, treating, and disposing of these unsafe byproducts. The EPA has developed strict regulations on the conservation of resources, maintaining health standards, safe ways of recycling hazardous waste, and land disposal restrictions.

In light of this pressing and possibly detrimental issue, the United States provides multiple solutions. First, countries need to record and measure how much nuclear waste they are producing. And, if necessary, implement restrictions on how much waste is being produced in order to reduce the amount that needs to be disposed of. Secondly, countries should establish various systems for disposing of the waste including a recycling method, deep boreholes, and/or mined repositories. Recycling hazardous waste encompasses reusing the material for energy recovery, regenerating it, recovering a useful product from the waste, employing it in the industrial process, and various other scenarios. Deep boreholes are drilled five kilometers below the surface and provide a safe, isolated place as to not affect the biosphere. This will ensure the toxic waste will not harm humans or the environment. Mined repositories include storing the waste in copper tanks, as studies have shown the copper to have long-term corrosion resistance. Additionally, the concept of storing waste in Yucca Mountain is projected to be a suitable solution to the issue at hand. This idea was first introduced 30 years ago, but was never acted upon. Recently, the White House has agreed that Yucca Mountain is a reputable and valid option. This mountain is fairly remote and sparsely populated. It's geological formation hasn't changed in millions of years which solidifies its security and safety. Additionally, the area is not subject to flooding or earthquakes which reduces the chances of a leak. Alongside these suggestions, the United States is willing to work and compromise with any other country to devise a plan to correctly dispose of these hazardous materials, as the safety and security of the population and environment is top priority.

Delegation from: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Represented by: Laurel School

Position Paper for General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization

The issues presented before the General Assembly, Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization are: Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line; and The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste.

I. Regulating Commercial Activities beyond the Karman line

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is honored to have the opportunity to deliberate on the topic of placing regulations on commercial activities beyond the Karman Line. With the relatively recent development of space travel, humans are presented with a unique situation that presents both immense opportunities for innovation and potential for new problems that may interfere with further advancements. Currently, there are 72 countries in the world that have some sort of satellite in space. These satellites serve various purposes, from global telecommunications to surveillance for natural disasters and present opportunities for a myriad of further advancements. However, in addition to the various satellites that humans have put in space, there is also a significant amount of space debris surrounding Earth that could prove harmful to satellites. It is because of this that we need to regulate the amount of commercial activity that goes on beyond the Karman Line so as to reduce space clutter and promote beneficial intelligence gathering.

Venezuela has acknowledged the problems that space clutter could pose for the space advancements of the United Nations. The Bolivarian Agency for Aerospace Activities (ABAE) has placed an emphasis on international cooperation regarding space technology so as to maximize opportunities while still protecting the environment. Venezuela has launched three satellites into space in coordination with China, Brazil, Uruguay and India for the purpose of telecommunication and helping monitor Earth's natural and manmade disasters. Launched in 2008, VENESAT-1 is a satellite we launched for the purpose of scoping out natural and manmade disasters so that we can coordinate help for the people who need it. Since then, we have launched two more satellites: VRSS-1(2012) and VRSS-2(2017) which we've also used to gather intelligence that can be used to further progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Venezuela emphasizes the need for cooperation and coordination of space intelligence while keeping the area beyond the Karman Line demilitarized. We believe that space technology could be an extremely useful resource to have for the furthering of the SDGs because it can provide a wealth of information monitoring natural disasters and climate change. Additionally space technology could prove to be a crucial resource to providing humanitarian aid to people in need. Venezuela recognizes these possibilities and looks forward to crafting a treaty with other delegations to maximize the benefits that we can attain from space science and technology.

II. The Long Term Storage or Disposal of Hazardous Nuclear Waste

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is honoured to discuss the subject of the long term storage or disposal of hazardous nuclear waste. The nuclear waste from power plants especially is stored in underground facilities, but many times is not recycled. Nuclear waste is very dangerous if not properly recycled properly and since almost all countries have many power plants and other ways of getting electricity in nuclear ways these countries have a lot of nuclear waste stored. . In 1996 to 2000, there were about 49 nuclear reactors in the world, nuclear reactors are the generators of power in power plants. Now there are about 440 nuclear reactors and the US, France and Japan are the top three, in terms of nuclear reactors. Although nuclear reactors are the most common cause of nuclear waste, there is a way to recycle nuclear waste and even reuse it.

On July 7th 2017 the treaty that prohibits nuclear weapons was negotiated by the UN and 122 countries joined. Venezuela was the 7th country to ban nuclear weapons and endorse the treaty. Nuclear weapons are also a cause of nuclear waste and if all countries agreed to the treaty there will be less nuclear waste to dispose of. Venezuela is one of the largest producers of oil in the world which corresponds to us not using as much nuclear energy. We understand that many other countries have a lot of nuclear waste which is detrimental to the environment and that is what we are trying to solve. We encourage other countries to use oil and fossil fuels more than nuclear energy, in hopes that there will be less radioactive waste in the environment.

Venezuela understands the need for countries to collaborate to try and combat too much radioactive nuclear waste. We believe that countries should limit their construction and use of power plants as a use of energy, due to the fact that power plant leakages are very dangerous. We understand that these power plants supply a great amount of energy for many countries and we suggest alternate energy produces such as wind, water, etc. We look forward to cooperating with other delegation in hopes of reducing the amount of hazardous nuclear waste instead of storing it in facilities.