



# STUDY GUIDE:

## UNGA

### (UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

HFSMUN 2022



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## Letter from the EB

Dear Delegates,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the United Nations General Assembly @ HFSMUN 2022. Through this study guide, you will be introduced to the topics that will be discussed within our committee, and hence we recommend that you read it carefully. This guide is replete with additional links and information, and the more research you do, the easier you will find navigating committee dynamics. Please **do not** conclude your research with a thorough reading of the study guide, rather, delve into your own country's stances, international legislations on the issue, and possible solutions to the problem.

We understand that this is the first Model United Nations conference for a lot of you. For first-timers, we strongly encourage that you try to speak **at least once** during committee. Remember, Model UN conferences are some of the lowest-pressure circumstances, ideal for developing your public speaking skills.

In addition to reading the study guide and conducting your research, we strongly recommend that you go through HFSMUN's comprehensive delegate kit: a handy Beginner's Guide and the Rules of Procedure.



Lastly, we request that all delegates submit a **position paper** before the conference, formatted according to HFSMUN's guidelines. Position papers help us accurately gauge a delegate's levels of preparedness and the committee's general feelings on both agendas, and **will also be factored in while marking** for final awards. Please use this experience of creating your position paper to clear out your thoughts and organise your existing research. *Delegates must submit 1 file via email, containing 2 position papers - one for each agenda.* Position papers are due on xyz date.

If you have any queries, please feel free to reach out to us at [unga.hfsmun@gmail.com](mailto:unga.hfsmun@gmail.com). This email will be monitored by our Executive Board. Please allow 2 working days to receive a reply to your query.

Your chairpersons,  
*Advait Sangle (Director)*  
*Vihaan Purohit (Assistant Director), and*  
*Aryan Khanna (Assistant Director).*



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## About the Committee

The United Nations General Assembly is the largest committee of the United Nations, and holds the distinction of having each country as its member nation. Each country is allotted one vote, and all votes hold equal value. The UNGA is known specifically for its ability to facilitate quick international dialogue and accurately represent the thoughts of the entire international diaspora accurately.



It has six member organs:

- First Committee (Disarmament & International Security)
- Second Committee (Economic & Financial)
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural)
- Fourth Committee (Special Political & Decolonization)
- Fifth Committee (Administrative & Budgetary)
- Sixth Committee (Legal)



The United Nations General Assembly is also responsible for :

- Appointing the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Security Council
- Electing the non-permanent members of the Security Council
- Approving the UN budget



## Important Points(before reading the guide)

- *Please read the Letter from the EB before reading the rest of the study guide for important information on position papers.*
- *Delegates new to Model United Nations conferences are requested to peruse the HFSMUN Beginner Handbook before reading this document.*
- *This study guide contains citations within the footnotes for each claim it makes. The use of a particular outlet as a source does not imply that it is considered a ratified source in the committee. The study guide, itself, however, may be considered a ratified source.*
- *This study guide also contains occasional links to high-quality resources for additional reading. We strongly recommend that delegates go through these, as they make for a higher-resolution understanding of the topic.*



## Ratified Sources

- *Official United Nations speeches, voting records, websites.*
- *All official government communication, statements, and websites.*
- *Peer-reviewed and published scientific papers in a reputable journal.*
- *BBC, Reuters, Wall Street Journal, Associated Press, The Guardian, CNN*

*All other sources will be reviewed by the Executive Board on a case-by-case basis, but we recommend delegates stick to the above while making a factual claim.*

# Discussing the Human Rights violations by Russia in their invasion of Ukraine Historical Background

## *Annexation of Crimea*

An international event at the forefront of Russian-Ukrainian tensions was the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

In February 2014, Ukraine witnessed the Revolution of Dignity - in which Ukrainian protesters rallied against President Viktor Yanukovich for choosing closer ties with the Russian government, as opposed to the European Union.<sup>1</sup> These protests resulted in the eventual overthrow of the Ukrainian government. The revolution was extremely violent, with more than 120 deaths and 1400 injuries.

These incidents sparked a political crisis in Crimea. On February 27-28, Russian special forces seized public buildings in Crimea, cutting off Ukraine from Crimea. On March 1, the newly appointed president of Crimea, Sergey Aksyonov officially asked Russia for assistance in ensuring peace in the region.





Next, a status referendum was conducted on March 16, 2014. Citizens voted, resulting in a ~95% majority to join the Russian Federation, though the results were internationally disputed. The next day, the Crimean Parliament joined the Russian Federation.

*Since the annexation was a complicated political takeover, we strongly recommend additional reading using the following resources:*

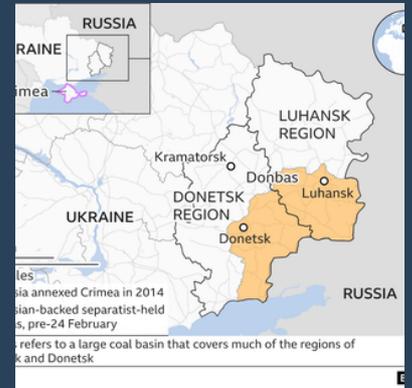
- 1) <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine/The-Maidan-protest-movement>
- 2) [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/OHCHRThematicReportUkraineJan2014-May2016\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/OHCHRThematicReportUkraineJan2014-May2016_EN.pdf)
- 3) <https://www.rferl.org/a/russian-forces-in-crimea--who-are-they-and-where-did-they-come-from/25285238.html>
- 4) <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-crimea-forces-russian/25281291.html>
- 5) [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/crimeans-begin-vote-on-russia-referendum/2014/03/16/cc2c2132-acd4-11e3-a06a-e3230a43d6cb\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/crimeans-begin-vote-on-russia-referendum/2014/03/16/cc2c2132-acd4-11e3-a06a-e3230a43d6cb_story.html)



*For a clearer understanding of the timelines surrounding the annexation, please view the following YouTube video: [How Putin Annexed Crimea From Ukraine](#) . For a more detailed run-down of the events surrounding the annexation, please peruse the following article: [The crisis in Crimea and eastern Ukraine](#) Britannica.*

## *Donetsk, Luhansk, and the Donbas War*

The war in Donbas was a military flashpoint between the two countries, and was fought between Ukraine on one side, and the Luhansk People's Republic, Luhansk People's Republic, and the Russian Federation on the other.



On 7th March 2014, pro-Russian protestors announced the Donetsk People's Republic(6), and on the 27th of April, the Luhansk People's Republic was declared, allegedly encouraged by the Russian annexation of Crimea.(7)

The Ukrainian Government retaliated through a “Anti-Terrorist Operation”, or ATO. To oppose this, Russia armed the local rebels, leading to a massive escalation of the conflict.(8) Ultimately, around 14,200–14,400 were killed and 51,000–54,000 wounded overall, as per a UN Report.(9)

Finally, on September 5th, 2014 a peace agreement was signed between the belligerent parties, agreeing to a bilateral immediate ceasefire. Called the Minsk Protocol, it was mediated by France and Germany. However, violations of the agreements on both sides led to another round of violence.





Peacemaking efforts resumed early next year with an agreement commonly referred to as Minsk II, signed on 12th February, 2015. Once again led by France and Germany, these occurred in the backdrop of increased Western interest to send arms and support to Ukraine.(10) The Minsk II protocols were considered largely successful.

*Once again, the above provides an extremely simplified version of historical events. We recommend the following YouTube video: War in Ukraine(2014-2022) | History Today and Vox article: Everything you need to know about the 2014 Ukraine crisis - Vox for an easily accessible yet in-depth understanding of the topic.*

6) <https://web.archive.org/web/20140407142644/http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26919928>

7) <http://tass.ru/en/world/729768>

8) <https://www.vox.com/2014/9/3/18088560/ukraine-everything-you-need-to-know>

9) [https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Conflict-related%20civilian%20casualties%20as%20of%2031%20December%202021%20%28rev%2027%20January%202022%29%20corr%20EN\\_0.pdf](https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Conflict-related%20civilian%20casualties%20as%20of%2031%20December%202021%20%28rev%2027%20January%202022%29%20corr%20EN_0.pdf)



10) <http://web.archive.org/web/20150212102525/https://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/08/world/europe/divisions-on-displacement-over-western-response-to-Ukraine-at-security-conference.html>

*The Executive Board would like to urge delegates not to ignore this section of the study guide, as a strong historical understanding of the conflict is key to navigating its present-day intricacies.*

## 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine

### *Diplomacy and Justifications*

A 2021 article written by Vladimir Putin titled “On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians” makes for fascinating reading. Its first line reads: “During the recent Direct Line, when I was asked about Russian-Ukrainian relations, I said that Russians and Ukrainians were one people – a single whole”. The entire essay is available on the Kremlin’s official website: *Article by Vladimir Putin “On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians” • President of Russia*. In the essay, Putin questions the legitimacy of Ukraine as a nation and alleges that the Ukrainian Government is wrongly swayed by Western ideals. This essay sparked great controversy worldwide.





On December 17, 2021, Putin made a list of demands to NATO, at the forefront of which was a veto on Ukrainian membership in the organization.(11) He also wished for a withdrawal of NATO troops in Eastern Europe. This list of demands was considered far too aggressive by the West, who did not agree to them.

*For a more in-depth understanding of Russia's motivations, please view the following videos:*

*The Ukraine War From Russia's Perspective*

*or*

*The REAL Reason Putin is Invading Ukraine.*

## *Build-up and Invasion (2022)*

Through 2021, the world observed a massive military build-up along the Ukrainian border, all while Russia denied allegations of plans of an invasion, as documented by the USA's Congressional Research Service(12).



Clashes occurred from February 17 till February 23. On the 21st, Putin officially recognised the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. Putin officially announced a military operation against Ukraine on the 24th of February, in what has been considered an “effective declaration of war”, the full text of which can be accessed here: [Full text: Putin's declaration of war on Ukraine | The Spectator](#). The invasion began on the same day.



11) <https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-unveils-security-guarantees-says-western-response-not-encouraging-2021-12-17/>

12) <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11806#:~:text=Since%20late%20December%202021%2C%20Russia,closer%20to%20the%20Ukrainian%20border.>

*For a visual understanding of the ensuing war, please read the following article: [Ukraine war in maps: Tracking the Russian invasion - BBC News](#) or see this visual explainer: [Conflict in Ukraine's Donbas: A Visual Explainer | Crisis Group](#).*



## *Human Rights Violations*

*Trigger Warning: Abuse, Violence, Rape/Sexual Assault, Death*  
*Please proceed with care while reading this section and any of the associated links, as they may contain graphic descriptions of violence.*

A large number of accusations regarding human rights violations have risen from the Russian invasion. Allegations of threatening journalists through abduction(13), arbitrary detention(14), execution and torture of civilians(15), and destruction of medical centers(16) rose, and access to basic food, water, and shelter is extremely limited in besieged settlements. All of this is not to brush aside the brutal violence subjected upon the civilians, which ranges from the use of weapons with wide area effects, shelling and airstrikes, and cluster munitions.(17)

Reports of sexual violence abound, with multiple independent sources coming forth through credible sources like the United Nations(18), the Human Rights Watch(19), the New York Times(20) and the BBC(21). Underreporting has been described as a major problem in accurately judging the scope of sexual violence during the invasion.

Ukrainian forces have also been found guilty of human rights violations, including allegations of mistreatment of Prisoners of War(22).

Within Russia, censorship and the squashing of protests has reached new heights, as major independent news outlets were forced to shut down, and anti-war protesters were arbitrarily detained.(23) Internet censorship was also significantly ramped up.(24)

13)<https://rsf.org/en/russians-use-abduction-hostage-taking-threaten-ukrainian-journalists-occupied-zones14>

14)<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60858363>

15)<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/05/18/ukraine-executions-torture-during-russian-occupation>

16)<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-war-crimes-tracker-b39137c3a96eef06f4ba1793fd694542>

17)[https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/HRMMU\\_Update\\_2022-03-26\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/HRMMU_Update_2022-03-26_EN.pdf)

18)<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14926.doc.htm>

19)<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/03/ukraine-apparent-war-crimes-russia-controlled-areas>

20)<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/04/11/world/europe/bucha-terror.html>

21)<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-61071243>

22)<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/13/world/europe/ukraine-russia-war-abuses.html>

23) <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/russia-censoring-news-war-ukraine-foreign-media-are-trying-get-around>

24) <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/03/17/russia-ukraine-war-internet-censorship-china-great-firewall.html>

*For a deeper dive into the human rights violations during the conflict, read the original reporting of [Amnesty International](#) and the [Human Rights Watch](#). For a moving speech by the Head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, Matilda Bogner, [click here](#).*

## Reaction from the International Community

### *NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)*

NATO has officially condemned Russia's invasion in "the strongest possible terms"(25). However, the organisation has refrained from providing any military support (directly or indirectly). A flashpoint occurred between NATO and Ukraine, when the organisation rejected President Zelenskiy's request for a no-fly region over the area, with the justification that NATO did not wish to be directly involved in the conflict.

Central to understanding NATO's reluctance in engage in conflict with Russia is Article 5 of the NATO Treaty, which states "an attack against any NATO ally is considered an attack against all allies".(26) Furthermore, seeing that Russia is equipped with nuclear weapons and the fact that their use has been discussed by diplomats over the course of the war, it's not hard to see why NATO nations are keen to keep from involving themselves in this war.



## *China*

China, being stuck balancing competing interests, has remained almost entirely on the sidelines. As a nation, it has neither helped Russia, nor pressured it to end the invasion(30) US officials reported that Moscow had approached China for military support, while Chinese officials denied these reports(31). The Chinese government is yet to take a stance of clear condemnation of the Russian invasion(32), and has criticised Western sanctions on Russia. Meanwhile, trade between the countries seems to have grown by around 28%. (33)



## *India*

Similar to China, India remains in the precarious position of having to balance competing interests from a geopolitical perspective, and has adopted a foreign policy approach often described as “walking a tightrope”.(34) While abstaining from successive United Nations votes condemning the invasion, it has released slightly cryptic public statements, urging for a “cessation of violence and hostilities” and wishing for “the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states to be respected”. A geopolitical analysis may reveal that India’s motivations could be driven by worries of closer ties between their enemies China and Pakistan, with Russia, thus preventing India from alienating the Kremlin.(35)





- 25) [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_192648.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_192648.htm)
- 26) [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_110496.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_110496.htm)
- 27) <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-60664169>
- 28) <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-04-19/russia-will-not-use-nuclear-weapons-in-ukraine-lavrov-says>
- 29) [https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/russia-would-only-use-nuclear-weapons-if-its-existence-were-threatened-says\\_kremlin-2837522](https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/russia-would-only-use-nuclear-weapons-if-its-existence-were-threatened-says-kremlin-2837522)
- 30) <https://www.vox.com/23005295/china-russia-ukraine-war-media-censorship>
- 31) <https://www.bbc.com/news/60571253>
- 32) <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/russia-ukraine-war/story/xi-jinping-criticises-sanctions-russia-ukraine-war-1922296-2022-03-08>
- 33) <https://www.bbc.com/news/60571253>
- 34) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUHdQEzOa3A>
- 35) <https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/04/25/what-is-in-our-interest-india-and-ukraine-war-pub-86961>



## *Global sanctions against Russia*

A vast number of countries have imposed wide-ranging sanctions on Russia. Perhaps the hardest hitting ones are those affecting the oil and banking sectors, along with Russia's from SWIFT, a crucial part of the global financial infrastructure.(36) According to IMF reports, unemployment is set to double, the economy will contract by 8.5%, and inflation is set to hit 24%, all of which are worrying economic signs.(37) While these sanctions are not directly proven to change any part of Russian foreign policy, arguments in favour of their use as a part of a "larger strategic toolkit" abound.(38)

*Sanctions are complex economic tools. For further reading on these sanctions, we recommend the following articles:*

*Tracking sanctions against Russia, Sanctions and the Costs of Russia's War in Ukraine, Russia's War on Ukraine: The Economic Impact of Sanctions, and Global Sanctions Dashboard: Russia and beyond - Atlantic Council.*

36)<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-60521822>

37)<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12092#:~:text=Sanctions%20that%20isolate%20Russia%20are,slow%20down%20in%20global%20economic%20growth.>

38) <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/sanctions-and-costs-russia-s-war-ukraine>



## Potential Moderated Caucus Topics

- Current human rights violations in Ukraine.
- Role of international communities in solving the conflict.
- Effectiveness of current methods to solve conflict.
- Potential solutions to the conflict which are amenable to both parties.
- Historical role of NATO in causing Russian impetus for an invasion .

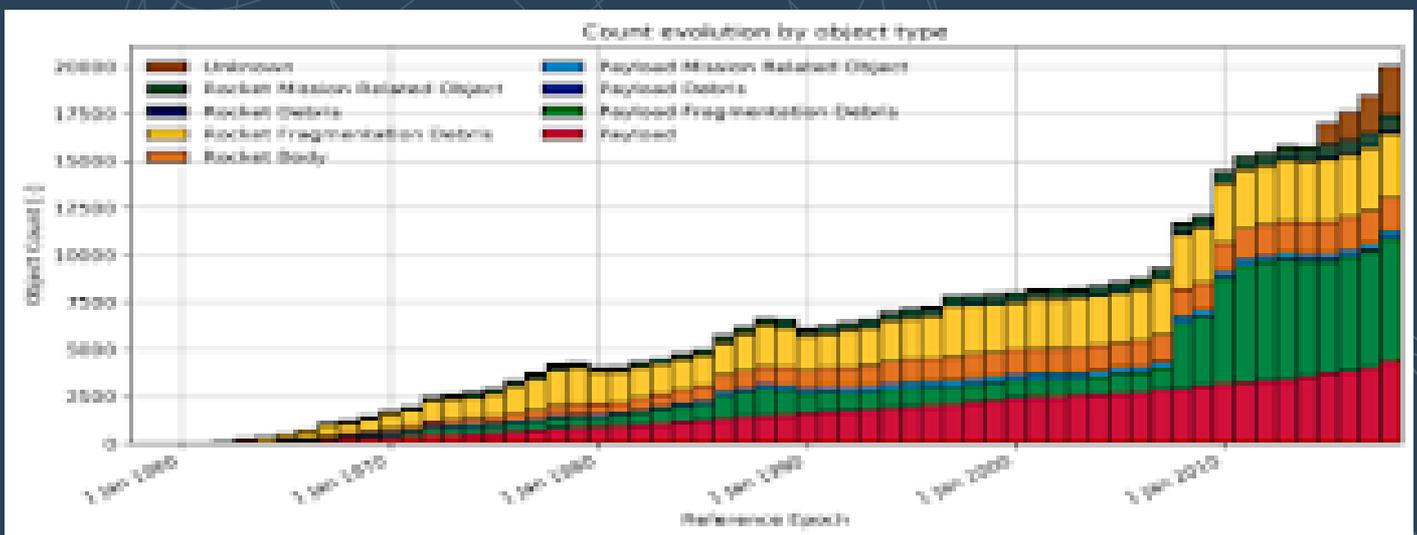
## Questions a Resolution Must Answer-

- How will the human rights violations committed during the invasion be punished?
  - What measures must be put into place to prevent future human rights violations in the current conflict?
- What is a potential geopolitical solution, acceptable to both parties, that may end the current conflict?
- What is the action the international community at large must take to move towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict?
- Are sanctions and condemnations enough, or is military involvement necessary at this stage in the conflict?

# Developing international regulations on space debris removal and mitigation

## What is space debris?

Space debris or orbital debris, likewise called space junk and space waste, are the objects in orbit around Earth which, though created by man, no longer serve any useful purpose. Garbage can likewise be formed by blasts in space or when nations direct rocket tests to obliterate their own satellites. Besides Russia, countries like China, the United States, and India have also shot down their own satellites, making space debris.



## Can it possibly damage us?

As space debris orbits around the earth at heavy speeds – around 15,700 miles every hour (25,265 kph) in the Earth’s lower orbit, it could cause critical harm to a satellite or a shuttle when a crash occurs. While space debris is not likely to impact space travel, it will provoke issues for spaceflight around Earth. The belt is generally vital for objects at a level of around 1,000 kilometres (620 miles from the ground), and is used for communication and Earth observation. Current assessments put forth figures north of 128 million bits of debris. There are around 900,000 pieces ranging from 1 to 10 cm. The ongoing count of enormous trash (defined as 10 cm across or larger) is 34,000.



## Here are a few examples and their impact on us-

The amount of debris in space compromises both crewed and uncrewed space-crafts. The chance of a disastrous impact between space transport and debris is 1 out of 300(4).

- In November 2021, when the ISS went through the trash cloud from a Russian enemy satellite test, space explorers closed the station's secret entryways and hid in their bus(3).
- On July 24th, 1996, in the principal impact between a functional satellite and a piece of room garbage, a section from the upper phase of a European Ariane rocket collided into Cerise, a French microsatellite. Cerise though harmed, kept on working(1).
- On February 10th, 2009, when Iridium 33 (an interchange satellite owned by the American organisation Motorola) slammed into Cosmos 2251 (an idle Russian military correspondences satellite) around 760 km (470 miles) above northern Siberia, the two satellites broke(3).
- On January 11th, 2007, when the Chinese military obliterated the Fengyun-1C weather satellite in a satellite framework trial, it created an additional 3,000 sections or a 20% increase in all space garbage. In less than two years, these parts fanned out from the satellite site to form a haze of trash around the earth, which would not emerge anytime soon(5).

- On January 22nd, 2013, the Russian laser-going satellite BLITS (Ball Lens In The Space) encountered an unexpected change in its excess circle and its twist, which made researchers leave the mission. The cause is said to have been an impact with a piece of Fengyun-1C trash. Pieces from Fengyun-1C, Iridium 33, and Cosmos 2251 account for around half of all trash under 1,000 km(5).



## Conclusion

Right now, it is estimated that there are over 20,000 known and tracked pieces, each estimated to travel at an average of 24,000 kmph. This poses a risk to all nations planning future space missions. As nations are yet to clean this trash, the UNGA comes in. Let's take another example: In the mid 1960s, the U.S. military needed to devise a better approach for communicating with its forces all over the planet. Assuming that a foe cut off undersea links, they could only depend on bouncing radio transmissions off of the ionosphere, which was an untrustworthy technique. In the Cold War-period, a program called Project West Ford was started. It was an arrangement to send off 480 million small fragments of copper needles into space, giving Earth a fake ionosphere and a solid method for imparting. Though the first batch was successful, this program was cancelled because of developments in satellites, and the excess formation of space junk(6).



## Recommended Moderated Caucus Topics

- Discussing the root of this issue.
- Causes of the influx of space debris and the disastrous impacts causing to countries.
- Discussing how space-related organisations could reduce the abandonment of satellites.
- Discovering a way of funding the mitigation of space debris.
- Finding new rules to implement to mitigate space debris once and for all.

## Potential Solutions

- An estimated 128 million pieces of space debris exist currently, and all countries should fund and help to create a technology using which the mitigation of space junk can be done easily.
- Countries must also agree to clean up their created space debris, in case of shutting down a space mission or project, and must accept the charges should they fail to do so.
- A separate body should be created to monitor and control space debris 24/7.

## What your resolution must answer-

- How will the process of space mitigation take place?
- Who will be funding the whole program?
- How nations will be acting henceforth with regard to space satellites and the abandoning of their old programs/events?

## References

- 1) [https://www.britannica.com/technology/space-debris.](https://www.britannica.com/technology/space-debris)
- 2) [https://www.britannica.com/technology/space-debris.](https://www.britannica.com/technology/space-debris)
- 3) <https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/topics/space-debris/index.html>
- 4) [https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/topics/space-debris/index.html.](https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/topics/space-debris/index.html)
- 5) <https://www.britannica.com/technology/space-debris>