

Forum: Economic and Social Council.

Issue: Space Colonization and Resource Distribution.

Name of Writer: Maryam Hamrouni.

Position: Main Chair.

Introduction

Space colonization, without the development of clear legal frameworks to aid in distributing extraterrestrial resources can disrupt global development and can further divide the global economy. If extraterrestrial resources are controlled by wealthy governments and corporations it could worsen global inequalities so it is important to address these issues before it is too late. This background paper will explore why these resources are important and explore both the opportunities and challenges posed by space colonization in regards to distributing resources considering ethical, political, legal and economic perspectives.

Definition of Key terms:

- Space Colonisation: The establishment of permanent human settlements beyond Earth.
- Helium-3: A isotope of helium found on the moon used in a process called nuclear fusion which creates energy without any harmful waste.
- Terraforming: Modifying the natural environment of a planet or moon to better adapt it for humans, for example altering the temperature.
- In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU): The use of the natural resources of other planets or moons to support human habitation without the need to transport resources from Earth.
- Exoplanets: Planets found outside of our solar system that could potentially harbour human life without the need for terraforming.
- Cosmic Radiation: High-energy radiation outside of Earth's atmosphere which is a serious risk to human health during space travel.

- Extra-Terrestrial Resources: Resources found exclusively in other planets or moons.

In recent years, space exploration has become a tangible field for human exploration. Considering the fast-pace of recent technological advancements and the growing interest of both governmental and private agencies, humanity now stands on the brink of colonizing other planets in hopes of exploiting the natural resources of other planets and moons to aid in human advancement as well as building self-sustained human settlements beyond Earth. . This raises questions about the distribution of resources found on other planets. It is important that we address this issue not only to maintain peace but also to ensure equitable sharing of space resources.

In order to achieve these goals while simultaneously maintaining global peace we must address the issue of resource distribution. The issue of resource distribution poses many challenges as resources from other planets and moons can easily be exploited and used to further divide humanity by increasing the wealth of few nations and private corporations due to the significant economic advantage in accessing and exploiting these rare, extraterrestrial resources while leaving developing countries behind, worsening Earth's economic inequality.

This can severely impact normal citizens in developing nations as the unchecked distribution of these resources, leading to high concentrations of wealth in small circles can increase the cost of resources

including water and energy and limit access to new, space-based technology that could improve their quality of life. These citizens will also be left-out of the new sector of space-related job opportunities which will not be accessible to them. This will cause these citizens to grow frustrated leading to social unrest and political instability.

Challenges:

Cost and investment: As countries and corporations with more wealth will be able to invest more in space exploration, it may be difficult to come to a compromise in regards to equal distribution.

Environmental impacts: As we do not understand the local environments of other planets and moons we could cause long-term harm to the local environment and eco-systems by mining for resources.

Equitable access: The high cost of space missions could potentially cause a few wealthy governments and corporations to control space resources.

Technological advancements: In order to maximise the potential of space colonization, new technology will have to be developed in order to allow space exploration to become a reality. This could cause certain countries and corporations with more wealth to have more advanced technology and easier access to extra-terrestrial resources.

Legal frameworks:

- The Outer Space Treaty (1967): Establishes the fundamental principles that govern space exploration.
 - The Moon Agreement (1979): Addresses the use and distribution of the Moon's resources.
 - The Artemis Accords (2020): Address the need for the peaceful use of outer space in the context of resource extraction.
- Bibliography:

<https://www.unoosa.org/>

<https://ecosoc.un.org/en> <https://sdgs.un.org/> <https://unctad.org/> <https://www.spacefoundation.org/>
<https://www.law.eur.nl/iiasl/> <https://www.planetary.org> <https://www.ssi.org>
<https://www.iaaweb.org>