

# **Research Report**

## **Future Council**



***Exploring the options of leaving the planet in order to ensure humanity's survival.***

*Student Officers:  
Vivvianne van Adrichem & Mette de Brouwer*

## Introduction

Human beings have been exhausting Planet Earth's resources for centuries. As traditional fossil fuels are not widely available anymore and humanity has failed to fix the planet, what does the world do? Do we stay here and try to salvage what is left or do we explore moving the human race elsewhere?

As a nation you must decide on which direction to go and under what circumstances. Some of the key players are the North American Union and the Communist Republic. These are some of the biggest nations in the current world order with the most power due to past space programmes. This means that they have more experience in the field than most other nations. Be careful of who you align yourself with.

## The committee

You are going to be part of the Future Council. The Future Council is an ad-hoc committee in which we discuss issues that might occur in the (near) future, as the name suggests. This is the second year MUNA is hosting the Future Council and it is not a real council in the United Nations. As everything we will be discussing is hypothetical, the Future Council does not follow the same rules as most of the other committees.

Currently, the world consists of 206 countries. In the Future Council, this number has been brought down to 17. This means that the country you will be representing is a nation that has never existed before.

Doing research before MUNA starts is even more important for the Futuristic Council than for the other committees. You cannot use most of the material that can be found online, so try to use the background information you have of your country as the fundamentals of your stance on certain topics.

## Keywords

Alternative energy sources = Energy that does not come from fossil fuels (such as coal, oil or gas), for example wind, flowing water, solar energy and biomass.

Asphyxiation = The state or process of being deprived of oxygen, which can result in unconsciousness or death; suffocation.

Biofuels = Liquid transport fuels made from biomass.

Climate change = A change in the climate of a region over time due to natural forces or human activity.

Extra-terrestrial = Refers to any object or being beyond (extra-) the planet Earth (terrestrial)

Fossil fuels = Fuels – such as coal, gas, peat and oil – that are formed in the ground over a long time from dead plants and animals and are used up once they are burned for energy.

Global warming = The gradual increase in temperature of the Earth's surface caused by human activities that result in high levels of carbon dioxide and other gases being released into the air.

Gravity = A mutual physical force of nature that causes two bodies to attract each other.

Ozone layer = The thin protective layer of gas 10km to 50km above the Earth that acts as a filter for ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. High UV levels can lead to skin cancer and cataracts and affect the growth of plants.

Pollution = The presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance that has harmful or poisonous effects.

Solar system = The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit round the sun, together with smaller bodies in the form of asteroids, meteoroids, and comets.

Ultraviolet = Electromagnetic radiation at wavelengths shorter than the violet end of visible light. The atmosphere of the Earth effectively blocks the transmission of most ultraviolet light, which can be deadly to many forms of life.

## Overview

Humanity has failed its planet. Pollution has been an issue since 1948, when 20 people were asphyxiated and more than 7000 people became seriously ill. Pollution has been rumoured to be around since the 1300s and has been a problem since the 1990s. The human race failed to recognise the problems it caused and refused to do anything to solve the issue. Attempts were made, but they were either ineffective or on a scale so small that it did not make much of a difference on the long run.

The world has now almost completely run out of fossil fuels. The only nation that still has oil is the Islamic State. Other nations are trying to scramble by through the use of alternative fuels and energy sources. However, in the years to come, this will not be possible anymore because the materials needed to build windmills and solar panels etcetera are also becoming increasingly scarce due to centuries of mining.

Until 2082, nations such as the North American Union and the Communist Republic have sent brave astronauts into space to explore our options until the resources needed for space travel were too necessary elsewhere. Results from the space missions, however, have been promising. The Communist Republic has been looking into restarting their space program as they wish to set up a civilisation on Mars. The North American Union has been trying to stop them because they feel like the resources are far too valuable to be used for such plans.

## Arguments

### Arguments in favour of exploring the option of leaving planet Earth:

#### Pollution and climate change

Since the planet is already damaged beyond repair because of climate change and pollution, it is best to try to survive in a place that has potential.

#### Humanity needs to learn from its mistakes

We have made a lot of irreversible mistakes and ended up with a planet that we broke beyond repair. We can use the mistakes we made as a reference for what not to do next time and use it as a learning experience.

#### A clean slate

We can try to save a planet that has a small chance of survival or we can put that time and effort into wiping the slate clean and starting over.

### Arguments against exploring the option of leaving planet Earth:

#### If resources were so scarce already, why would we waste them on attempting to leave the planet?

Resources are already barely available, what if we use what we have and we end up failing?

#### We could never all go

There is no way that we could build a spacecraft big enough to fit the entire population of this planet. This means that we must decide who stays behind with essentially no resources and who gets to go. This is extremely unfair.

## Timeline of Events

2028: Spock Mission  
First manned mission to Mars

2030: Spock Mission returns  
Promising results show that humanity can survive on Mars.

2032: Humanity has failed  
Pollution caused irreversible damage to our planet

2034: Spock Mission II  
Second manned mission to Mars to collect more samples.

2037: Spock Mission II  
Failed mission. No survivors.

2045: Spock Mission III  
Second attempt at Spock Mission II.

2049: Spock Mission III returns  
Results show that Mars could host a human civilisation.

2061: Operation McGregor  
Climate agreement trying to save the planet.

2069: Interim report Operation McGregor  
Small progress visible after the initiation of Operation McGregor.

2074: Mission Bold  
The objective is exploring the resources and possibilities on Mars.

2079: Mission Bold  
The astronauts of Mission Bold have set up a semi-permanent base on Mars.

2082: Resources are rare.  
There are barely enough resources to survive. All space missions have been cancelled.

2100: Time has run out.  
All 17 nations must now decide on staying on Earth or moving our civilisation elsewhere in the Galaxy. There are not enough resources to explore both options.

## Resolution

As a delegate you will be exploring the available options of staying or leaving. Please note that you must stick to your country's opinion when deciding which side to take. Remember to not let your own opinion cloud your judgement on the matter.

Do you wish to stay and try to fix the problems at hand or do you wish to start over? If you do choose to start over, where and when would you do this and how would you get there?

Keep in mind that not only the decision of staying or leaving is important, but also where your country stands on the issue, what you plan to do about it, and how you plan on execution your solution.

Because the Future Council is an ad-hoc committee, you will not need to write a resolution beforehand. Instead, we will be writing a resolution together as a product of the debate. Therefore, you will have to come up with solutions on the spot. These solutions are expressed in the form of amendments.

Because of the complex nature of this issue, it is very hard to come up with one single solution for this problem. Therefore, it should be solved in little steps.

## Links and sources

[https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/tutorial\\_pollution/02history.html](https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/tutorial_pollution/02history.html)

Short description of the history of pollution.

<https://www.epa.ie/footer/a-zglossaryofenvironmentalterms/>

Glossary of environmental terms

<http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-glossary.html>

Glossary of astronomy terms

[https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/chronology\\_mars.html](https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/chronology_mars.html)

Missions to Mars