

# Ad Hoc

Georgia Tech Model of United Nations

Committee

Ad Hoc Committee of the Secretary General  
Committee of Moon Affairs

Regional and Specialized Bodies

October 14-15, 2024

[www.gtmun.gatech.edu](http://www.gtmun.gatech.edu)



Georgia Tech  
Model United  
Nations

#GTMUN2024

*Bridging  
technology  
and  
diplomacy.*



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#GTMUN2024



# Letter from the Secretary General

*Dear esteemed delegates,*

*Welcome to the twentyfifth edition of the Georgia Model of United Nations. I am incredibly excited to be your Secretary General for GTMUN 2024!*

*My first Model UN conference was GTMUN, six years ago, and it's given me a joy and passion for diplomacy that has lasted since. This year, the secretariat team has worked extraordinarily hard for months to assemble an incredible array of committees and topics to test your abilities and push you to grow as a delegate and as a future leader. As a person who was in your position six years ago, reading the GTMUN background guides, I know how it feels to prepare for a committee. Though this resource is invaluable, I encourage you to go beyond in terms of studying about your topic(s) and your country's diplomatic position. I firmly believe that the greatest moments in Model UN happen when you have resiliently prepared through different resources to bring your member state's view into the committee. It is a sincere hope of mine that you enjoy the conference, and take the fullest advantage of what GTMUN has to offer, from public speaking skills, to critical thinking and policy creation. It is opportunities like these when you can connect with fellow, like-minded delegates to bring ideas into the table and construct the progress that people across the globe need, and that only the United Nations can deliver.*

*GTMUN is an amazing chance to brainstorm to solve current issues creatively and practicing being the leader of tomorrow. I wish you the best in preparing for and participating at the upcoming conference!*



GTMUN XXV Secretary General  
Jonah Isaza





# *Introduction*

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For millennia, humanity has looked up to the Moon in awe. A silent companion, shaping our tides, guiding our explorers and inspiring our poets. It has been a beacon in the dark, marking the passage of time and giving rhythm to life. It has woven its way into the very fabric of our existence, tied to deities and the cyclical dance of life, death, and rebirth. It has inspired ambition and dreams, giving rise to exploration beyond our imagination. From the wonder of the first human steps on its surface to the questions it left us with. The moon was always more than just a rock. It was our partner in existence... Until the day it was no more.

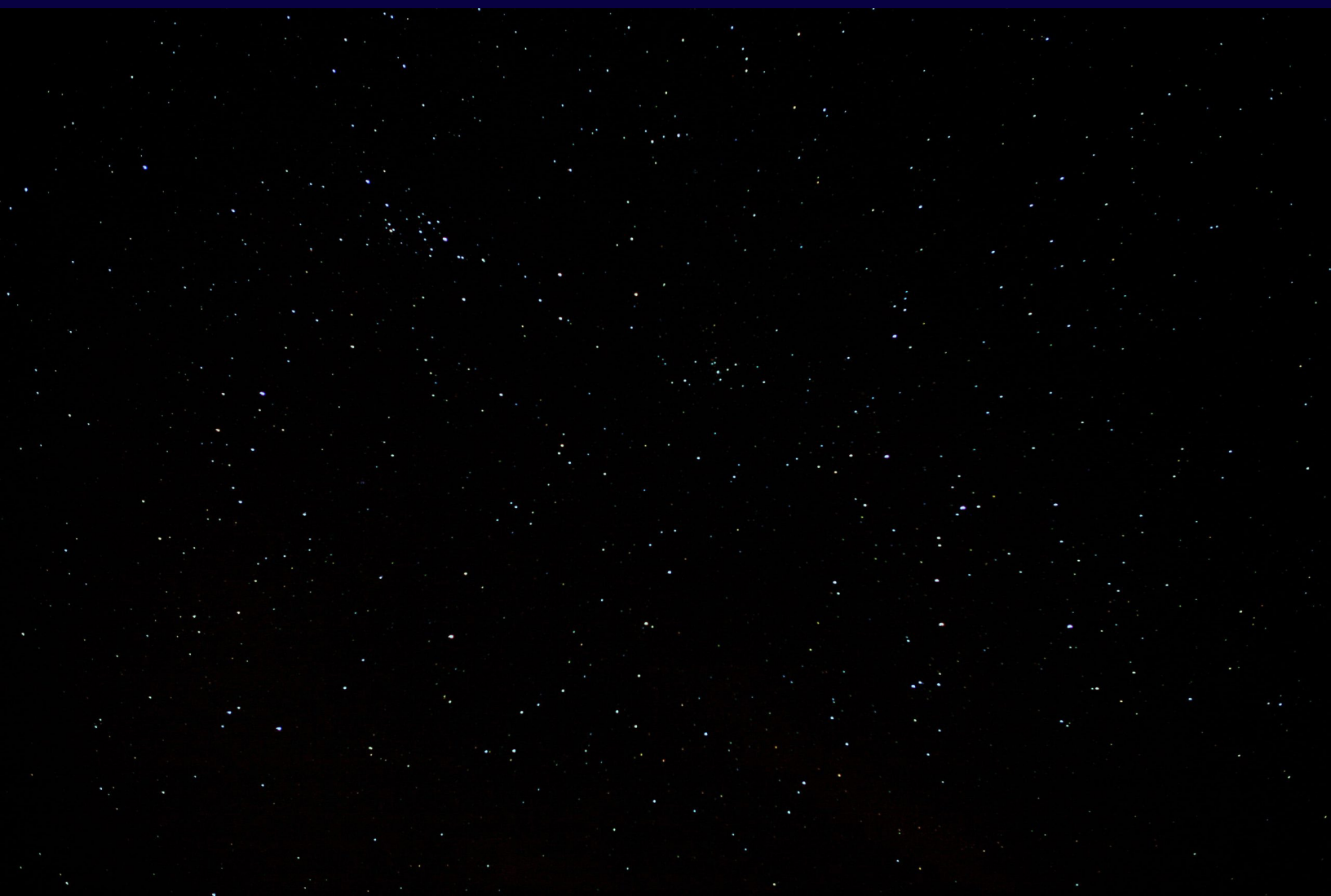
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***“We all know we fall. Newton’s discovery was that the Moon falls, too - and by the same rules that we do.”***

**Isaac Asimov**



**TOPIC**  
*The  
Great  
Moonfade*





# As it Happened...

October 2nd, 2024. The night sky was exceptionally dark but inconspicuous. A phenomenon known as a “Micro Moon” was taking place; with the Moon nearing its apogee – on its farthest point from Earth – and in its New Moon phase, providing a veil of darkness over the satellite that made the lunar disk invisible to the naked eye. A first report was submitted at 3:17am EST, when logs from the International Space Station showed abnormal gravitational readings around Earth. Commander Andreas Mogensen initiated a transmission through the ISS emergency line at 3:25am, after the station showed unusual amounts of overcorrection in its orbital path. This communication was received by the United States’ NASA, Russia’s Roscosmos, The European Space Agency (ESA), Japan’s JAXA and Canada’s CSA. It quickly became clear that their instruments were not erring; The Moon was gone.

The Moon’s disappearance was originally overlooked by the public, but as the veil of darkness lifted, citizens of the world were left wondering where the ubiquitous satellite (which was supposed to be in its waxing crescent phase) had gone.

The Great Moonfade – the name given to this historic occurrence – was as sudden as it was inexplicable, leaving citizens, governments, and the scientific community astounded by this unpredictable event. Immediately after, astronomers, astrophysicists and engineers from all corners of the world pointed their instruments at their sky looking for answers to no avail. Teams from the world’s most advanced and powerful telescopes have been working non-stop, including the SKA Observatory in Australia and South Africa, the Mauna Kea Observatory, and the Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC). So far, no team has made conclusive findings on the developments of this tragic event.

Left: real photo of a normal-sized New Moon, showing the lunar disk. Right: comparison between the Moon in perigee and apogee, its farthest point from Earth.





Mauna Kea Optical Observatory, one of the largest observatories on Earth.

Despite there being extensive studies about the influence of the Moon on Earth, there have only been assumptions about the aftermath of a cosmic event of this level of influence to humans. Scientists from all over the world have assembled multidisciplinary teams to study possible environmental effects, but with the unpredictability of real short-term and long-term effects, they all have a coinciding opinion: this is an environmental emergency.

## ***Role of the Committee***

Governments of the world have declared an international emergency and requested for the United Nations to facilitate international cooperation between states.

The Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, has requested for the opening of the Committee on Moon Affairs to deal with the aftermath of the Moon's disappearance. During its session, delegates will be tasked with promoting efforts to discover the truth behind this event, coordinating strategies for the mitigation of environmental, economic, and social repercussions, and the integration of public resources between states and the United Nations. This committee will work closely with the United States Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and may request assistance from any other United Nations Organ. The Committee on Moon Affairs will follow the structure and parliamentary procedure of a General Assembly committee and may deal with special events through its session.

# Speculating a Possible Cause

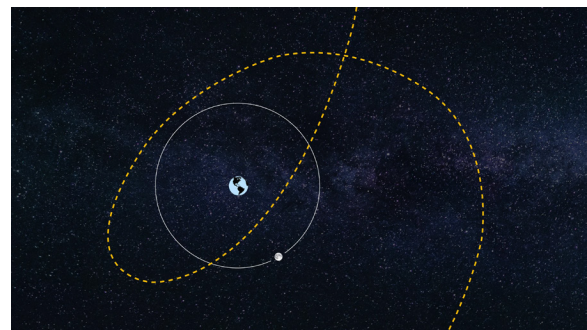
The first order of this committee is facilitating collaboration between governmental agencies to investigate the event. Understanding what caused The Great Moonfade might be helpful to ideate effective mitigation strategies and appease the public's anxiety.

## Unknown Cosmic Event

So far, the scientific community has differing verdicts on the events of October 2nd. Most scientists believe it physically and astronomically impossible for "natural forces" to make the Moon disappear suddenly and violently without leaving a trace. In all of humanity's time observing the universe, there has never been a phenomenon where an object with the size and mass of the Moon ignores orbital stability and gravitational effects in favor of disappearing. While some scientists believe that a force capable of ejecting the Moon from its orbit cannot exist, others argue that our knowledge about the universe is incredibly limited, and there is a large possibility for forces outside our comprehension to occur.

## Astronomical Impact

On September 29, 2024, Earth temporarily obtained a mini moon in the shape of an asteroid from the Arjuna belt denoted as 2024 PT5. A team of scientists experienced in "mini-moon events" identified the event and spotted the peculiar dynamic properties of PT5. The geocentric negative energy of the object caused it to follow Earth's trajectory with a predicted stay of two months of orbit. Some professionals believe that the Moon and the mini moon could have crossed paths, creating an astronomical impact caused by a sudden collision. However, other scientists believe that disintegration from a catastrophic event would have resulted in trackable phenomena, such as scattering and spreading of debris around Earth.



Projected orbit of Asteroid 2024 PT5 that shows coinciding paths with the Moon



## NASALive.com "Moon Stream"

United States' NASA provides a free live streaming service, which circles its programming between high-definition live streaming from the ISS to Earth, and from Earth to nearby celestial bodies. The schedule for the night of October 2nd included tracking of the micro moon event with specialized equipment, which would have allowed for the visibility of the satellite from 2am-7am EST. Regular viewers and enthusiasts indicate that the stream was disabled at around 2:45 am, with the video service and the entire dedicated URL removed shortly after.

## Abandoned Soviet-era Cosmodrome

Nearby communities reported suspicious activities near the abandoned facilities of the Baikonur Cosmodrome, a Soviet-era space research center. There are speculations of vehicles transporting equipment in and out during late night hours. The access to the area has been restricted and residents of nearby towns were evacuated on the afternoon of October 1st.

Photo: previously thought abandoned Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Kazakh desert, where spacecraft and equipment gathered dust and rust.



## @apollyon-lunae

During the last few weeks, an online personality known as “Apollyon” has used social media platforms to foreshadow an ‘initiation’ to take place “during the October New Moon”. With accurate detail, the account proceeded to send cryptic messages that can be associated with the happenings of The Great Moonfade. This account has gone viral, garnering an important following and sparking debate in social media.

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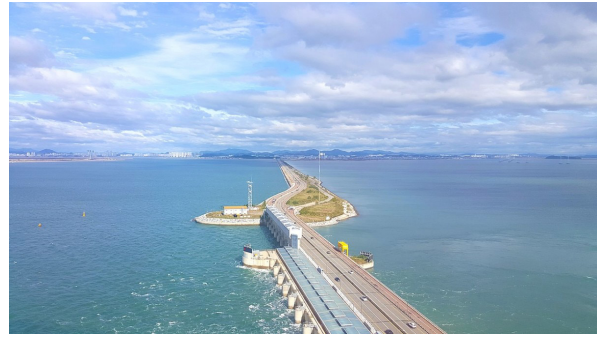
# The Aftermath

## Environmental Effects

With the disappearance of the Moon, a noticeable change in tides has become the most immediate and significant effect.

The Sun and the Moon are the responsible bodies for the distribution of the tides on Earth's oceans, but given its closeness to the Earth, the Moon's gravitational force becomes the primary force driving tidal activity. As the Moon rotates, it creates a tidal concentration on opposite sides of the Earth that move around, creating high and low tides.

With the Moon gone, the tidal range has been reduced by 70%, meaning that high tides are now only 30% of what they used to be, while the lower tides are much less noticeable. This has resulted in chronic flooding of some coastal areas that rely on regular tidal cycles to drain excess water, with the most impacted regions being the Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta in Bangladesh and India, the Netherlands, East Anglia, the Tijuana River Estuary, San Francisco Bay, and small island nations in the Pacific. This has affected an estimated total of 150 million people and created billions of dollars in damages. Additionally, countries like South Korea, France, Canada, China, and The United Kingdom have invested billions of dollars in tidal energy power stations that have become inoperable.



Sihwa Lake Tidal Power Station in South Korea, the world's largest tidal power station

Global ocean circulation patterns have started to change. The Gulf Stream, responsible for regulating the temperature and climate of the East Coast of the United States, Canada, and Western Europe, is behaving erratically, which poses a threat to the established maritime commerce through shipping routes, and an unimaginable disruption of marine ecosystems and climatic effects that are out of professional's comprehension. Moreover, the weakening of tides has prevented large cargo ships from entering many ports, leading to higher shipping costs and increased operational costs.



The Gulf Stream before the Great Moonfade

## Psychological Effects, Social Unrest, and Economic Collapse

Perhaps the most alarming effects of The Great Moonfade are the psychological and social consequences of the lost satellite. Humanity has long attached spiritual, cultural, and emotional significance to the Moon. Its disappearance has led to psychological distress, manifesting in mass panic, collective grief, and even mental health crises across the world. The global panic has caused an initial stock market crash due to the hoarding of essential goods, people withdrawing their money from banks, and the breakdown of social order in some regions. Currencies from countries which are reliant in industries like tourism, fishing and space technologies have devalued due to investors pulling out from riskier projects, causing markets to further destabilize.

Additionally, conspiracy theories spread through social media have worsened the distrust in some governments which are struggling to maintain order. This crisis has put us on the brink of societal collapse.

The disappearance of our celestial body has triggered widespread fear and exacerbated societal divide. Special attention is given to a progressing spiritual crisis for millions of believers across Moon-reliant faiths. Many major religions, including Islam and Judaism, rely on the lunar calendar to determine the timing of sacred observances, while Hinduism's Chandra (the God of the Moon) is associated with the night, plants and vegetation. The destabilization of ingrained religious practices and deep spiritual disorientation experienced by a large percentage of the world's population could result in bigger societal problems.

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Viral post points out government distrust sentiment.



**number 1 keroppi fan** @user\_290933891 · Jun 1



is it just me who finds it sus that after no one even cared to look at the moon for decades, then suddenly on 2022-23 EVERYONE wanted to go?????

377

26.1K

762.6K



**number 1 keroppi fan** @user\_29093389 · Jun 1



no because the US having artemis, Russia with their luna launcher, even India with their rover... it's like they suddenly found something about the moon then getting there became a race again. now the moon suddenly gone

84

5.4K

660K



**number 1 keroppi fan** @user\_29093389 · Jun 1



remember kids to not believe anyone when they say you have nothing to offer

64

737

319.4K





# Directives

## QARMAS

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- *What strategies can the United Nations implement to investigate the origin of The Great Moonfade?*
- *What immediate actions should the international community take to address the environmental and economic consequences of the Moon's disappearance?*
- *How can governments prevent social panic and maintain stability in this time of unprecedented crisis?*
- *How can international cooperation be strengthened to ensure that no nation is disproportionately affected by the moon's absence?*

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