



Secure World Foundation
Statement on the SWF Handbook for New Actors in Space
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
31 January 2017

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation (SWF) I would like to commend the efforts of this Subcommittee in addressing the issue of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. We strongly support the current agenda item, and the excellent work of the Subcommittee over the last several years in developing guidelines for voluntary best practices that can be applied by states, international organizations, national non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. We look forward to seeing those efforts reach completion in the near future, and we pledge to support the effort in any way we can.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce a new SWF publication that we feel is a significant complement to the work of this Subcommittee and its Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities. In 2014, I announced at this meeting that the Foundation was beginning development of the Handbook for New Actors in Space, with the goal of providing new governmental and non-governmental space actors with information to help maximize the potential positive benefits, and minimize the potential negative consequences, of the growing use of space.

Today, I am happy to announce that the first edition of the SWF Handbook for New Actors in Space has been completed. It is the product of a significant amount of hard work by the entire SWF staff, with vital input from dozens of outside experts in this Subcommittee and elsewhere. The Handbook is available

electronically at <https://swfound.org/handbook> and a printed copy will also be provided to each delegation between today and tomorrow.

The Handbook is divided into three chapters. The first chapter provides an overview of the international treaties, legal principles, and institutions, many of which this Committee helped develop. The second chapter discusses national space policy and administrative structures that provide oversight and regulation of governmental and non-governmental space activities. The third chapter covers space operations, and requirements and considerations that should be undertaken during the pre-launch, launch, on-orbit operations, and end-of-life phases of space activities. All three chapters are interdisciplinary in nature, linking information and perspectives across technical, legal, and policy disciplines. Each chapter also includes concrete examples of how existing actors have approached various issues, and highlights differences between existing practices and solutions.

We hope the Handbook will be a useful tool for the entire space community as it continues to expand and innovate. We welcome feedback from the members of this Subcommittee and all governmental and non-governmental space actors on how we can improve future editions of the Handbook to best serve the needs of the community. Over the next year, we will also begin work on developing an interactive online complement to the Handbook, which will allow us to provide more details about many of the topics covered in the Handbook. We are actively exploring potential partnerships and sponsorships with governments, academia, and private sector entities to assist in this process.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, thank you for your time.

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