



SECURE WORLD FOUNDATION

Statement under Agenda Item 4. *General information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law*

Sixty-Second Session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

March 2023

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate this opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since May 2022 under this agenda item. The Secure World Foundation is a Non-governmental Organization granted permanent observer status at this Committee in 2008 and special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2010. The Secure World Foundation focuses its activities on three primary themes: ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities; fostering the development of sound space policy and law; and enhancing the use of space technology and international cooperation to support human and environmental security on Earth.

We continue to distribute new copies of our *Handbook for New Actors in Space*, a book covering fundamental aspects of international space law, national space policy and regulation, and responsible operational practices for new space actors. So far, we have published Spanish, French, and Chinese language versions of the *Handbook*. Electronic versions in these languages are available on our website at swfound.org/handbook, and are free to download. This year we will begin revisions for an updated version of our Handbook.

In June of 2022, Secure World Foundation organized the fourth *Summit for Space Sustainability* in London, co-hosted with the UK Space Agency. With over 400 participants in person and another 200 virtual participants, the conference was full of exciting government and industry announcements and substantive discussions about orbital debris, international space governance, and industry-led initiatives, among many other topics. SWF is committed to continue the conversations and efforts towards finding solutions in space sustainability and to inspire the next generation of space leaders. We are pleased to announce that the fifth *Summit for Space Sustainability* will be held as an in-person event June 13 and 14, 2023, in New York City. We cordially invite all delegations to attend. More information is available at the website swfsummit.org.

In June and September 2022, SWF held *Regulator to Regulator Dialogues* in London and in Paris that brought together space and spectrum regulators from multiple countries to discuss licensing and

oversight of large satellite constellations. A third workshop was held in Vienna in cooperation with the European Space Policy Institute in February 2023. As part of these discussions, we also provided an overview of the current research on orbital carrying capacity and how it might influence future regulatory frameworks. In general, outcomes of these discussions recognized that regulation of large constellations will be most likely and most effectively implemented at the national level, but at the same time there is need to ensure consistency across national administrations and between space and spectrum regulatory authorities internationally.

Secure World Foundation is proud to be a funding stakeholder, along with the Governments of Belgium, Chile, and Luxembourg, of UNOOSA's [Space Law for New Space Actors Legal Advisory Project](#). The *Legal Advisory Project* offers UN Member States tailored capacity-building to facilitate their drafting of national space legislation and/or national space policies in line with international space law, and promoting the long-term sustainability of space activities. Such capacity-building will support new and emerging space-faring nations to conduct space activities in a responsible and sustainable manner. We look forward to future advisory service activities in 2023 in furtherance of this project.

In December of 2022, SWF [submitted a letter](#) to the US National Space Council's *In-Space Authorization and Supervision Policy Listening Sessions* on authorization and supervision of novel commercial space activities and innovative missions, experiences with US regulatory bodies, and approaches to mission authorization and supervision. The SWF submission stressed the strong legal basis for authorization and supervision in Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty, the requirements that all national actors pay due regard to the corresponding interests of other states in the exploration and use of outer space, and policy recommendations for an modernized space oversight framework.

SWF continues to support space law education on a national level, with sponsorship of the North American Round of the 2023 Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition. Organized by the Space Court Foundation, this year's regional North American round was held March 17 and 18 on the campus of Georgetown University in Washington DC.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, the Secure World Foundation looks forward to continuing to support the Committee's efforts to achieve and sustain the continued peaceful uses of outer space.

Thank you for your kind attention.

