

Space policy on the United Nations level

history, achievements and the way forward

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The Secure World Foundation (SWF) is a private operating foundation dedicated to the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples.

- **Engages** with academics, policy makers, scientists and advocates in the space and international affairs communities to support steps that strengthen global space security.
- **Promotes** the development of cooperative and effective use of space for the protection of the Earth's environment and human security.
- **Acts** as a research body, convener and facilitator to advocate for key space security and other space related topics and to examine their influence on governance and international development.

- SWF holds Permanent Observer status in COPUOS
 - Working with developing countries on legal and policy issues
 - e.g. governance of space activities
 - Bringing space security issues to the attention of delegates
 - Space traffic management
 - Cooperative space situational awareness
 - Mitigation of orbital debris
 - Near Earth Objects

- Interest of humankind in space dates back to prehistoric times
- Development of cosmo-vision, in ancient civilizations, for example Incas
- Considerable accumulation of scientific and astronomical knowledge
- Astronomy become a tool to understand the universe in ancient and modern history
- Industrial revolution and XX century; fundamental evolution on science and technology
- Launching of Sputnik marked the beginning of the space age in 1959
- Competition between the two space powers. Cold war environment
- Dissemination of space technology throughout the world due to globalization
- New space fairing nations become more relevant on global stage

But, how to govern under the rule of law the increased technological developments on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space?

- Political commitment of International Community
- Application of the UN Charter and General international law
- Fears of non peaceful uses of outer space and indiscriminate exploitation
- United Nations mandate the creation of a particular body within its system
- The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was established in 1959



- Committee on The Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
 - Meets once a year, in June, in Vienna, Austria.
 - Has two subcommittees:
 - Scientific and Technical (meets in February)
 - Legal (meets in April)
 - In 1959 COPUOS had 24 members, currently it has 69 – one of the largest committees in the United Nations.
 - Main objectives:
 - Preservation of the peaceful uses of outer space
 - Focal point of international cooperation
 - Study legal problems resulting of the exploration of outer space
 - Promote technical and scientific space contributions

- Exploration of the benefits and interest of all humankind
- Non discrimination
- Freedom of exploration
- Non appropriation
- International Cooperation
- Preservation of peace and security
- States bear international responsibility
- Recommendation to register space objects

...” the exploration and use of Outer Space , including the moon and Other Celestial Bodies shall be carried out for the benefits and in the interest of all states irrespective of their degree of economic , social or scientific and technological development, and shall be the province of all mankind . Particular account should be taking of the needs of developing countries”

- International treaties and conventions elaborated by the UN COPUOS:
 - **1967:** Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (entered into force the same year)
 - **1968:** Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects launched into Outer Space (entered into force the same year)
 - **1972:** Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (entered into force the same year)
 - **1975:** Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (entered into force in 1976)
 - **1979:** Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (entered into force in 1984 but signed and ratified by only a few countries)

What has been done in addition to the space treaties and principles?

- UNISPACE III “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human development”, 1999 and recommendations
- Declaration on International Cooperation in the exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of all States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, 1996
- Resolution A/RES/59/115 of 10 December 2004 on the notion of « Launching State »
- Resolution A/RES/62/101 of 17 December 2007 on registration of space objects
- Endorsement by the UNGA of the COPUOS « Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines », § 26 of the annual omnibus resolution on international cooperation in outer space (A/RES/62/217 of 21 December 2007)

- Promoting adherence to Space Treaties and identifying main obstacles
- Dissemination and information on States legislation practices on registration
- Legal implications on sustainable development
- Space debris mitigation guidelines
- Promotion of Space Law and reinforcing inter-agency approaches
- Regulating UNISPACE main tangible results: SPIDER, GNSS, SGAC, WSW

In addition, COPUOS elaborates for approval by the UN General Assembly a number of Resolutions which reinforce and clarify certain aspects of the international legal framework for space activities: COPUOS also elaborated and submitted for approval by the UN General Assembly a number of «Declarations on principles» which, while not having the legal strength of a treaty, provide an internationally recognized reference for certain space-based activities: Declaration on Legal Principles governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space (1963), precursor to the Outer Space Treaty;

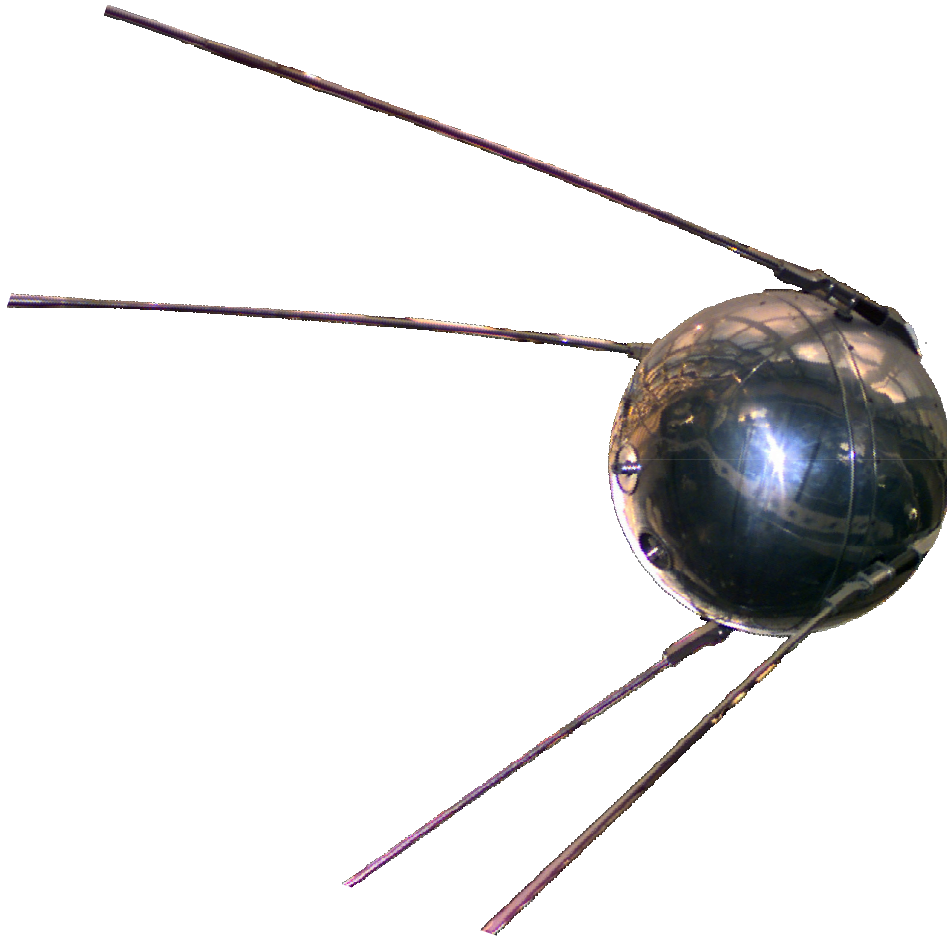
- Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting (1982);
- Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space (1986);
- Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (1992);
- Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (1996).



Space Generation Advisory Council in Support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications

Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Security





Children born after
October 4 1957

are born into a completely different World



Space Generation Advisory Council

Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Security

- Created during UNISPACE III (1999)
- The Space Generation Advisory Council in support of the United Nations Programme on Space Application (SGAC) aims to “engage with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), through raising awareness and exchange of fresh ideas by young space enthusiasts as well as to employ the creativity and vigor of youth in advancing humanity through the peaceful uses space”



Space Generation Advisory Council

Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Security

- Represents students and young space professionals to the United Nations, States, and space agencies.
- SGAC has permanent observer status in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and ECOSOC.
- Focus on pragmatic space policy advise to policy makers based on the interests of students and young professionals, ages 18-35, interested in space from around the world.
- The policy input of SGAC to date includes regular input to COPUOS, including to the UNISPACE-III Action Teams. We give input to national and international space agencies

How can you get involved?

Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Security



Have your voice heard!

The World will listen!



Thank You very much!
Any questions?