Outer Space: Norms and Emerging Challenges

Victoria Samson, Secure World Foundation
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Changing Nature of the Space Domain

- Shift in how we approach space affects possibilities for space and security

- Goal: *stable, predictable space environment*
  - Will allow us to enjoy continued benefits from use of and access to space
  - Increasingly important role of commercial entities
Dual-Use Space Technologies

• Space technologies can be **dual-use**
  – *Intent, not hardware*, going to be key
  – How do you **demonstrate responsible**, non-threatening use of space?
  – Even more relevant for next generation issues like active debris removal or on-orbit servicing

• International **cooperation can clarify** intent
  – *Norms of behavior* can help
USG Space Guidance

• 2010 National Space Policy

• 2011 National Security Space Strategy

• 2012 Defense Space Policy

• Overall: emphasis on *international cooperation, responsible space behavior*

• Possible changes in U.S. counterspace strategy
International Initiatives for Responsible Space

- Four main treaties

- 2008 Proposed Treaty on the Prevention of Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects *(PPWT)*

- Deadlocked UN Conference on Disarmament *(CD)*
International Initiatives for Responsible Space (2)

- UN *Group of Government Experts* on Space TCBMs
- UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space *(COPUOS)* *Guidelines for Long-term Sustainability of Space Activities*
- International *Draft Code of Conduct (CoC)* for Outer Space Activities
Draft International Code of Conduct

- 1st draft of the Code of Conduct (CoC) was released for international discussions in October 2010

- **Stumble** on first diplomatic efforts

- U.S. position: *support *a* CoC, use this CoC as a foundation for future discussions

- International meetings held around the world to raise awareness and increase support of the CoC

- 4th and most recent version of the draft released in March 2014
CoC Strengths and Weaknesses

- **Reinforces good behavior** by space actors

- Promotes *international cooperation*

- The inclusion of “self-defense” has concerned some
  - But this is a right that is included in the United Nations Charter and so its removal could impact some countries’ ability to sign onto the CoC

- **Disconnect** between what various participants believe the CoC is intended to cover
  - Security issues or simply peaceful use of space?
Future Challenges for Space Norms

- Anti-satellite tests
- Active debris removal/rendezvous and proximity operations
- Resource extraction
Questions?

Thanks.

vsamson@swfound.org

1.202.568.6213