



Secure World Foundation

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
60th Legal Subcommittee

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

3 June 2021

Madam Chair, the Secure World Foundation is looking forward to working with you and the rest of the Subcommittee on promoting and enhancing the peaceful uses of outer space, including the long-term sustainable use of space for benefits on Earth.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate the opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since June 2019 in support of the aims of the Legal Subcommittee. 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 here on Earth.

In September 2020, Secure World Foundation organized and hosted the second *Summit for Space Sustainability*, a three-day, high-level event focused on developing solutions for space sustainability that was a resounding success. Like so many other organizations, SWF had to adapt its Summit format due to a global pandemic. However, the virtual platform allowed us to reach a wider audience than ever before. More than 500 people from all corners of the globe, including several colleagues attending this session, participated in the event to discuss the commercialization and globalization of space, space security, spectrum management, and promoting norms of responsible behavior in space. We are pleased to announce that the 2021 *Summit for Space Sustainability* will be held virtually from June 22-24, 2021, and invite all delegations to attend. More information is available at the website swfsummit.org.

We continue to distribute copies of our *Handbook for New Actors in Space*, which we unveiled five years ago at this meeting, and about which we continue to receive significant positive responses from the community. Last year, in partnership with the Mexican Space Agency, we developed a Spanish-language version of the Handbook, and this year both French and Chinese versions of the

Handbook will be released. Electronic versions of all these editions will be available on the SWF website at swfound.org/handbook, and electronic versions in .pdf format are free for all to download.

Secure World Foundation is proud to be a funding stakeholder, along with the Governments of Belgium, Chile, and Luxembourg, of OOSA'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 outer space activities. Such capacity building will support new and emerging space-faring nations to conduct space activities in a responsible and sustainable manner. The project also aims to increase adherence to the existing normative framework governing outer space activities. We look forward to future advisory services activities in 2021 in furtherance of this project.

Secure World Foundation also formed numerous partnerships to leverage resources and promote space sustainability. In January 2020, SWF and the Government of Bermuda Department of Energy partnered to host the one and a half-day Bermuda Space Sustainability Workshop, which brought together over 30 experts from government, industry, research organizations, and academia to discuss the importance of space sustainability for Bermuda and for the world.

SWF has signed an agreement with the University of Colorado Boulder to partner on the Space Sustainability Initiative, a cross-disciplinary programme aimed at developing technically sound business models for space activities of tomorrow. It is also working with partners such as the Space Sustainability Initiative to find new ways to implement and promote responsible norms of behaviour among space stakeholders. Secure World Foundation is also proud to partner with Caelus Foundation and the Chinese Society of Astronautics to hold an ongoing Dialogue sharing perspectives on space commercialization between American and Chinese stakeholders. These are just a few of the partnerships that contribute to Secure World Foundation's on-going efforts to promote space sustainability.

In February 2020, Secure World Foundation hosted a panel discussion for delegates attending the 57th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of UN COPUOS in Vienna on the opportunities and challenges for international cooperation in LTS Guideline implementation. Drawing from some recent "teachable moments" in space activities, the group considered some of the challenges and opportunities for international cooperation in the effective implementation of the already agreed LTS

Guidelines, as well as ways to support the discussions of the new LTS Working Group at the 57th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS.

SWF has also engaged in a number of activities related to lunar and space resources governance. As future space exploration related activities become more tangible there is a need to consider how governance can support sustainability. We have partnered with the Open Lunar Foundation, and several other partners, to co-host an ongoing series of discussion of lunar policy and governance topics, known as the Moon Dialogues. A SWF staff member is also serving as a member of the newly formed Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities. SWF also notes that the work of the The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group (of which SWF was a Member and Consortium Partner) concluded in November 2019. We look forward to discussion of these Building Blocks during this session of LSC. SWF was pleased to deliver a statement on space resources utilization under Agenda Item 14.

In conclusion, the Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples. Our Foundation fervently believes that the challenge of sustaining the space environment into the future must be met in a truly international and cooperative manner. As the benefits of space activities expand in number and improve in quality, keeping outer space available for peaceful activities will become ever more important, as will our continued ability to use space capabilities to help solve our most pressing challenges here on Earth.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, the Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of COPUOS in this regard, and looks forward to continuing to support the Committee's efforts to achieve such a future. Thank you for your kind attention.