



*Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Sustainability*

# **Russia's Space Plans: Engagement in International Fora**

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- **Key question:** What role does Russia *currently* play in international fora that address space sustainability and security issues?
- **Answer:**
  - Leading space power
  - Navigating between the other two space powers, the US and China
- **Cases:**
  - COPUOS & the LTSSA Working Group
  - Conference on Disarmament & the PPWT
  - UNGA First Committee & the GGE



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# COPUOS & the LTSSA Working Group

- **United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS):**
  - Negotiates civil space issues
  - Two subcommittees: Legal and Scientific & Technical
- **LTSSA Working Group:** Long-term Sustainability of Space Activities
- **Terms of Reference in June 2011:**
  - Russia played an obstructive role
  - Insistent on State-centric format

# Conference on Disarmament & the PPWT

- **Conference on Disarmament (CD):** Charged with negotiating Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), deadlocked for 15 years
- **PPWT:** draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects
  - Draft submitted to CD in 2008
  - Three main goals: no weapons in space, no use of force or threat of use of force against space objects
  - Blocked by United States
- Russia seems more flexible than China on the PPWT

# UNGA First Committee & the GGE

- **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) First Committee:** the UNGA body that negotiates Disarmament and International Security issues
- **Resolution 63/68 and the GGE on space TCBMs**
  - Sponsored by Russia
  - Calls for Secretary-General to establish Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) to examine Transparency and Confidence-building Measures (TCBMs) in Outer Space Activities
  - Goal is to produce a consensus report with recommendations on TCBMs
  - 15 experts will meet at three meetings: July 23-27, 2012 in NYC; April 1-5, 2013 in Geneva; and July 8-12, 2013 in NYC
  - Group composition and Chairmanship will be decided next year

- **Key question:** What role does Russia currently play in international fora that address space sustainability and security issues? What role *can* Russia play?
- **Answer:** In three key bodies, Russia maintains its position as a leading spacepower and is trying to navigate between the other two dominant forces, the United States and China
  - This works because the US and Russia have an established an effective working relationship on space issues
  - Also works because Russia has, thus far, been supportive of shared space sustainability goals
- **Graham Allison and Robert Blackwill on why Russia still matters:**
  - Russia is still a leading spacepower
  - Russia can help determine whether or not China plays responsibly in space



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# Contact Information

**Questions?**

**Thanks!**

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