



***Exchange of Views Statement,
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
February 2013***

Mr. Chairman, we of the Secure World Foundation (SWF) extend our congratulations on your steadfast and thoughtful guidance of this subcommittee. Secure World Foundation looks forward to supporting you and the work of the subcommittee in any way it can.

We also note the continued efforts by the Office of Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) under the direction of Dr. Mazlan Othman to promote the peaceful uses of outer space. We are confident that this subcommittee and OOSA will continue successfully to provide effective support for the peaceful uses of outer space resources, especially for emerging space States.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity today to present the Foundation's work in support of the aims of COPUOS STSC. SWF focuses its work on four primary themes: the long term sustainability of outer space activities, the development of sound space policy and law, governance of the use of space technology in support of human and environmental security, and protection of Earth and its peoples from near Earth objects.

At the 2012 GEO plenary in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, SWF became an Observer of the Group on Earth Observations, which is coordinating efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems, or GEOSS.

On-orbit satellite servicing (OOS) and active debris removal (ADR) are part of an emerging category of future on-orbit activities that are critical for taking the next leap in our use of Earth orbit. The ability to repair or refuel satellites, construct new satellites in orbit, and even remove orbital debris can help drive innovative uses of space and create new possibilities. These activities also raise a host of diplomatic, legal, safety, operational, and policy challenges that need to be tackled for this future to be possible. SWF participated in a conference that the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Agency (DARPA) held in June 2012 on "Fostering Sustainable Satellite Servicing" in Washington, DC; furthermore, we organized follow-up events in Brussels, Belgium (October 2012) and Singapore (February 2013) to include more international perspectives in the discussion.

SWF has continued to partner with the UN OOSA and the UN-SPIDER and co-organized two events in 2012. The first was a workshop in Vienna focusing on Crowdsourcing Mapping for Preparedness and Emergency Response. This Expert Meeting brought together roughly 80 experts, each from the crowdsourcing communities, space agencies, disaster management agencies, international organizations, and NGOs. The meeting was part of a project conducted

by UN-SPIDER and was used to gather information from experts on how to bridge the gap between the crowdsourcing communities that generate space-based and geo-spatial information and the disaster management agencies. The second event was the United Nations/Chile Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits was hosted by the Centro de Información de Recursos Naturales (CIREN) of Chile, co-organized by The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America, in partnership with SWF. The overall objective of the workshop was to increase awareness among policy makers and planners on the socio-economic benefits of utilizing space technology. The workshop contributed to international cooperation by providing opportunities to exchange in-depth information on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits.

The SWF in partnership with the Space Policy Institute (SPI) of George Washington University has released a joint publication entitled "A Guide to Space Law Terms." Edited by Professor Henry Hertzfeld, the publication is the first to define more than 80 space law terms and phrases. The document is intended to be an authoritative and comprehensive guide to space law terminology, with room for growth and change as readers submit revisions and commentary. It is available from the SWF website or the SPI website.

SWF and the Space Policy Program at Ifri partnered again this year to organize their 4th annual space conference under the banner "International Relations and Space: the European Approach." The purpose of this conference was to review Europe's current policy for international relations in Space, to identify future challenges and obstacles, and to determine some strategic orientations for a coherent European Strategy for International Relations in Space.

As in previous years, SWF actively participated in the International Astronautical Congress and supported the Space Generation Congress as well as the International Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, which all took place in Naples, Italy. Additionally, SWF awarded five travel scholarships for young professionals to present their research papers at the IAC. The winners represented the United States, South Africa, Germany, India and Brazil.

In October, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and SWF organized a side event on the development of transparency and confidence building measures (TCBMs) for outer space activities in parallel multilateral fora. The event was held in conjunction with the sixty-seventh session of the First and Fourth Committees of the United Nations, held in New York from October 8 to November 1, 2012. The event highlighted the work being done within the UN First and Fourth Committees to respond to the growing risks to long-term sustainability of outer space and to discuss how these efforts might contribute to the building of trust and common understanding among space players.

Each year, SWF's Washington, DC and Brussels offices convene and facilitate meetings that are timely, germane and important within the space policy community. Both offices had release events in Washington, DC, and Brussels, Belgium, for the executive summary of the 2012 Space Security Index (SSI). The SSI is an annual assessment of all aspects of space security, using a

global lens to examine various factors that affect the sustainable use of space. SWF has been a long supporter of and contributor to the SSI.

Our Washington office organized:

- “Asia in Space: Cooperation or Competition” panel together with Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Space Policy Challenges Facing the Second Obama Administration.

Our Brussels office organized Brussels Space Policy Round Tables on:

- “Space Opportunities and Challenges – A view from Poland, the Newest ESA Member State” together with the Permanent representation of Poland to the European Union.
- “European Satellite Day 2012: Mayday! A Day Without Satellites” together with ESOA, ESA, EUMETSAT, NEREUS, Galileo, Eurospace.
- “Race to the Moon and Back - Policy Perspectives 50 Years After the JFK’s 1962 Moon Speech” together with the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy.
- "The Ups and Downs of Euro-China Space Cooperation" together with the European Institute for Asian Studies.

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In conclusion, Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples. It acts as a research body, convener and facilitator to advocate for international cooperation in solving the problems of space debris, orbital crowding and other manmade threats to the space environment. The Foundation fervently believes that the challenge of sustaining the space environment into the future must be met in a truly international, cooperative manner.

In its work the Secure World Foundation has not overlooked the importance of advancing the Millennium Development Goals through space activity. We have regularly included issues of broader access to space and capacity building in our programming and have directly sponsored students from emerging space states in their quest to improve their formal education in the field.

Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of COPUOS. 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 the space age evolves, the world community has a unique opportunity to safeguard the secure and sustainable use of the space environment. We look forward to supporting the Committee’s efforts to achieve such a future.

Many thanks.

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