



***Exchange of Views Statement,
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
June 2013***

Mr. Chairman, we of Secure World Foundation extend our congratulations on your leadership of the committee for the next two years. Secure World Foundation (SWF) looks forward to supporting you and the work of the committee 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 foster the peaceful uses of outer space. We are aware that this is the last committee meeting for Dr. Othman, and we would like to thank her for all her efforts and splendid work with this committee and OOSA, which continues successfully to provide effective support for the peaceful uses of outer space resources worldwide.

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

On 16 May 2013, the International Institute of Air and Space Law of Leiden Law School and the Department of Latin American Studies of the Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University jointly organized the first Symposium on Legal and Policy aspects of space cooperation between Europe and BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in Leiden, the Netherlands. This event was sponsored by the Secure World Foundation and Laboratoire Européen d'Anticipation Politique.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first woman in space, SWF together with the Women in Aerospace Europe, organized an informal panel discussion in Brussels, Belgium, entitled "Cooperation vs. Competition in Space Activities" to examine the present actors - States and the private sector - and their relationship to one another. All panelists were very accomplished women in the space sector, including the Director of the UNOOSA, Dr. Mazlan Othman.

SWF is always eager to support youth space activities and again this year the Foundation is pleased to announce that throughout the month of May, it accepted applications from young professionals for scholarships to aid in traveling to present papers at the 2013 International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Beijing, China. The goal of these scholarships is to provide young space professionals an opportunity to participate in one of the most prestigious international space conferences to further their professional development and inject new ideas into the community.

In addition, in April SWF partnered with the Space Foundation to co-sponsor the New Generation Space Leaders Program at the 29th National Space Symposium (NSS). The program was designed to bring together young professionals and senior leaders, and included workshop sessions, Q&A sessions, speed mentoring, social networking, and receptions. At the NSS, SWF also organized a plenary entitled "Long Term Sustainability of Space - Practices for the Future."

The second edition of the Space Generation Fusion Forum – an event highlighting international thinking geared towards university students and young professionals - took place in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA in conjunction with the NSS. The event gathered a select group of 50 standout young adults from various areas of space – government, industry, and academia. SWF significantly contributed to the organization of the Forum.

Once again, SWF co-organized the annual conference on space security with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva, Switzerland. This year's conference was organized in collaboration with Chatham House and The Simons Foundation and with support from the Governments of the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. It focused on threats that might give rise to conflict within the outer space domain, how such conflict might spread to other domains and how such threats might be mitigated through national and multilateral initiatives. The conference aimed at building greater mutual understanding among stakeholders about the importance of protecting the space domain.

SWF was a major sponsor of the 2013 Planetary Defense Conference (PDC), held 15-19 April 2013 in Flagstaff, Arizona, USA along with NASA, ESA, Aerospace Corporation and Northern Arizona University. Much of the PDC was devoted to sharing recent research on impacts of Near Earth Objects on Earth and how to mitigate the risks of damage.

On 16 March 2013, SWF hosted a break-out dinner on Space and Stability in Brussels, Belgium, as part of the German Marshall Fund's annual Brussels Forum. This session discussed the role space plays in international security and how it affects the cooperative efforts of the international community in creating suitable mechanisms, such as the EU-proposed draft on International Code of Conduct for outer space activities.

In February 2013, the SWF submitted inputs to the United Nation's Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) regarding the importance of Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures (TCBMs) in Outer Space. These inputs were based on activities related to maintaining international peace and security in outer space that SWF hosted or participated in around the world.

* * *

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 ability of humankind to use the space environment now and in the future must be met in a truly international, cooperative manner.

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.

Secure World Foundation

www.swfound.org