

Exchange of Views Statement,
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Delivered 12 February 2014

Mr. Chairman, we at the Secure World Foundation (SWF) extend our congratulations to you on your election and look forward to your guidance of this Subcommittee over the next two years. We are confident that this Subcommittee will continue to successfully provide effective support for the peaceful uses of outer space, especially for emerging and developing space States. Secure World Foundation looks forward to supporting you and the work of the Subcommittee in any way it can.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of SWF I appreciate the opportunity today to present an update on the Foundation's work since June 2013 in support of the aims of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC). SWF focuses its work on four primary themes: ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, fostering the development of sound space policy and law, enhancing the use of space technology in support of human and environmental security, and improving humanity's ability to protect the Earth from potential impacts by near Earth objects (NEOs).

Improving space situational awareness (SSA) for all space actors continued to be a focal point for our work in 2013. In September we partnered with the Maui Economic Development Board to hold a half-day SSA Dialogue in conjunction with the Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance Technology Conference. The Dialogue added critical discussions on policy issues related to improving SSA as well as discussions between international, governmental, and non-governmental SSA providers and end-users on improving sharing and cooperative efforts.

As in previous years, SWF actively participated in the 2013 International Astronautical Congress (IAC) and supported both the Space Generation Congress and the World Finals of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, all of which took place in Beijing, China. SWF team members were authors or co-authors for twelve papers presented at this year's IAC, and SWF also sponsored an event on space debris as part of the Young Professional Programme. Additionally, SWF once again awarded a number of travel scholarships for young professionals to present research papers on space sustainability and law and policy topics at the IAC. This year's winners hailed from France, China, Australia, Brazil, and Nigeria.

In November we were proud to partner with the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Belarussian State University to organize a workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits in Minsk, Belarus. 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. Our cooperation with UNOOSA continued into December when SWF pleased to provide support for the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development by assisting with travel support for delegates who would otherwise have been unable to participate.

In December we were honored to have the opportunity to participate in a UN-SPIDER Technical Advisory Mission to Ghana. SWF Project Manager Natassa Antoniou joined a team of experts from the disaster management and space technology community, UN organizations, and academia along with meteorology experts to visit Ghana to discuss improving the use of space-based information in disaster-risk management and emergency response.

Also in December, we partnered with CRECTEALC and a number of other organizations to hold a four-day workshop in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, on improving the use of Earth observations data and software to mitigate and respond to destructive flooding. The event emphasized the availability of free data sources, free open-source software, and sources of free online and in-situ training courses to bolster capacity building in financially-stressed Mesoamerican countries.

In January of this year SWF partnered with the Secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to hold a side event at the GEO Plenary in Geneva, Switzerland. The side event brought together researchers and practitioners from UN agencies, NGOs, industry, universities and the private sector working in all aspects of the use of Earth observation for disaster risk reduction and management. Major topics included how to facilitate and implement full and open access to big data for local and national end users, and how to overcome the technological divide that exists between developed and developing nations in utilizing space capabilities.

Also in January, SWF was invited to participate in the first organizational meeting of the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN), one of the recommendations from the work of Action Team 14 endorsed by this Committee. This meeting, held in Boston, United States, included participants from Europe, Japan, Russia and the United States. Among other topics, it focused on the difficult but important topic of risk communications.

Throughout each year SWF's local offices also convene and facilitate local panel discussions and meetings that are timely, germane and important within the space policy community. Since June 2013 our local offices organized events on:

- Near-Earth Objects: Addressing the Current Threat Level
- Earth Observation Satellite Data-Sharing: Policies and Partnerships
- International Space Reception
- "Gravity" in Real Life: Legal and Political Implications of an Accident in Space
- European Satellite Day 2013: Global Risks - Satellite Answers
- International Meeting on Food Security, Earth Observations and Agricultural Monitoring

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.

Mr. Chairman, SWF 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 does our continued ability to use space capabilities to help solve our most pressing challenges here on Earth. Thus, we are presented with both challenges and opportunities for continued beneficial use of space for all of humanity. We look forward to supporting the Committee's efforts to achieve such a future. Thank you for your time.

Secure World Foundation

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