



Exchange of Views Statement
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
June 2014

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation extends its congratulations on your election to lead the Committee for the next two years. We look forward to supporting you and the work of the Committee in any way possible.

We also note with pleasure the presence of Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo as the new Director of OOSA. We have had many opportunities to collaborate with Ms. Di Pippo in her previous assignments, and we very much look forward to continuing such collaboration with her in her new role with OOSA. We also extend our deep appreciation to the former Director, Dr. Mazlan Othman, for her highly effective years of service and note that we shall continue to benefit from her counsel since she has consented to become a member of our Advisory Committee for a three year term beginning this August.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, allow me also to congratulate your predecessor, Dr. Yasushi Horikawa for his excellent work providing leadership of this Committee. We particularly acknowledge the extraordinary visibility he has given to COPUOS and its mission of advancing peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity today to confirm the Foundation's support for the work and aims of COPUOS. Since the last session of this Committee, we have had many opportunities to address both the objectives of the Vienna Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, and I appreciate this opportunity to share some of that activity and the insights it has fostered.

Addressing the goal of "Using space applications for human security, development and welfare," Secure World Foundation has placed major emphasis on the use of space technology to mitigate and respond to disasters. In this regard, we have partnered actively with UNSPIDER and with the Group on Earth Observations, of which we became a participating organization earlier this year. Recognizing the value of increased communication between organizations applying space technology to the challenges of disaster mitigation and the need for greater exchange of information between users and providers of information, we organized a day-long side event on the subject in connection with the GEO Ministerial Summit and Plenary. In this regard we were also pleased to partner with the European Union and GEO in organizing a Conference on Using Space for Ensuring Food Security and to participate in United Nations/Belarus Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits.

In regards to "Advancing scientific knowledge of space and protecting the space environment," we continue our efforts to address the problem of space debris. Last month, SWF Technical Advisor Brian Weeden, who represented our Foundation at this year's session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, testified before the United States Congress as part of a hearing on space debris and space traffic management.

The hearing, convened by the Subcommittee on Space of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, focused on the role and responsibilities of U.S. Federal agencies for oversight of private sector actors and space debris. His testimony highlighted the three main activities needed to address the debris problem - debris mitigation, debris removal, and space traffic management - as well as the importance of space situational awareness (SSA) in support of those activities. This testimony noted the importance of international participation and perspective. Outside of the United States, we also organized events to address these important issues in China, Japan, and Australia.

In terms of enhancing education, training, and public awareness, we were pleased to sponsor the participation of young professionals at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Beijing representing six nationalities and five continents. By permitting these young people to physically present their accepted papers, this initiative contributed to the professional development of the next generation of space leadership and thinking.

Similarly, we were an active participant in the professional and capacity development work of the Space Generation Congress. We extend our appreciation to fellow observer SGAC for incorporating us into this important event and to China for their excellent work as hosts of both the IAC and Space Generation Congress. Also worthy of note under this heading is our work with the Working Group on Capacity Development of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), with which we followed up on last year's successful training workshop on the use of digital elevation modeling data in Kenya with a similarly successful effort in Mexico. This past April, we participated with CEOS in a fruitful planning session in India for future capacity development work. This May, we co-organized and held with the UN-affiliated CRECTEALC, NOAA and other organizations a very successful Mesoamerican capacity-building workshop on the use of free data and free, open-source software for disaster mitigation and response. Workshop participants resolved to create the Mesoamerican Open Source Disaster Activities (MOSDA) group, a working group for creating and spreading the use of geospatial information for Mesoamerican disaster planning and development.

Internationally, both through the United Nations system and in other international contexts, we have worked to foster cooperative solutions to space sustainability while also seeking to extend more broadly the benefits of space activity. We were proud to have been a contributing sponsor to last year's African Leadership Conference and to the work of the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean with which we signed a formal MOU last September. Representing our work with other parts of the UN System, we also continue to be an active partner with UNIDIR in organizing an annual conference on space security in Geneva, and we organized a side event on the work of the GGE for the benefit of members of First and Fourth Committees during the UN General Assembly session last fall. Our work continues to persuade us that international cooperation in using space peacefully and in maximizing its benefits for humanity is essential for all who hope for a more secure future on Earth. Last month, we organized a panel on the benefits and challenges of small satellites at the SGAC's 3rd Annual Fusion Forum in Colorado Springs, USA. We also hosted a breakfast on Radiofrequency Interference at the 30th Space Symposium, which was also held in Colorado Springs, USA.

This leads us to a belief that the success of radio frequency (RF) communications and space sustainability are intimately connected. RF is essential to satellite functioning as well as communication between satellites and their controlling entities. Our work in this field includes publication of a fact sheet on "Radio Frequency Spectrum, Interference, and Satellites."

Mr. Chairman, as this is the year when our special consultative status with ECOSOC requires us to complete a quadrennial report, I am pleased to note that we have fulfilled that obligation and that many more of our activities in support of this committee's objectives are detailed in that document. I am also pleased to report that we were able to identify specific actions that we have taken in support of Millennium Development Goals 1, 7, and 8.

Conscious that our primary responsibility here is to provide one additional voice of civil society in the work of this committee, we nonetheless continue to draw inspiration from the Committee's work. We also derive satisfaction from the opportunity to partner throughout the year with it, the Office of Outer Space Affairs, other elements of the UN system, other observers and many member states in advancing strategies set forth in the report of the UNISPACE III conference.

We also appreciate very much the privilege of observing the Committee's work and reporting on our actions that have supported it since the last session. Lastly, the Secure World Foundation's latest publication, *Space Sustainability – Practical Guide*, is updated for 2014 and is available for free to delegations at the publications table outside this meeting room.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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