



**Secure World Foundation**  
**Exchange of Views Statement**  
**United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**February 2016**

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation extends our congratulations to you for your appointment as Chair of this Subcommittee. We look forward to your leadership as this Subcommittee continues to address important questions involving the peaceful uses of outer space, including the long-term sustainable use of space for benefits on Earth.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate the opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since June 2015 in support of the aims of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The Secure World Foundation focuses its work on three primary themes: ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, fostering the development of sound space policy and law, and enhancing the use of space technology and international cooperation in support of human and environmental security on Earth.

In June of last year, the Secure World Foundation held its first workshop devoted to gathering expert input on the development of our Handbook for New Actors in Space, which is intended to provide guidance on the international framework, national law and policy, and operational best practices for sustainable space activities. Nearly 30 experts from government, academia, and industry gathered in Washington, DC, to provide detailed feedback on the issues, challenges, and best practices that should be included in the publication. Over the last several months, our staff has worked with other experts to

develop the first draft of the Handbook. These efforts will continue throughout 2016, and we hope to be able to publish the Handbook by the end of 2016.

In August, the Secure World Foundation hosted a panel discussion in Colorado, the United States, on disaster risk management entitled "From Response to Resilience: Space and Disaster Risk Management." It was our third event on this theme as part of an ongoing effort to promote communication and exchange of best practices across the full spectrum of disaster management activities, and the role of space-based assets in this effort. As part of this work, the Foundation also provided travel support for individuals from Mexico, Vietnam, Mozambique, and the United States to participate in two disaster management-focused workshops organized by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

In September, we continued our focus on improving space situational awareness data sharing and collaboration by partnering with the Maui Economic Development Board to hold the third annual AMOS Dialogue in Maui, the United States, in conjunction with the Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance (AMOS) Conference. This year's Dialogue focused on space traffic management and addressing the gaps in the current operational capabilities and governance mechanisms to improve on-orbit safety and sustainability. Our staff members were also instrumental in the development of the Policy Forum at the AMOS Conference, which included panel discussions on "The Role of Space Situational Awareness in Enhancing Norms of Behavior and Resilience" and "Challenges and Opportunities from the Growing Commercial Presence in Space."

As in previous years, the Secure World Foundation participated in the 2015 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 Jerusalem. The Foundation sponsored a group of students and young professionals at the Space Generation Congress who examined the policy challenges with nano-satellites and the implications for the long-term sustainability of space activities. We also once again awarded travel scholarships for young professionals to present research papers on space sustainability and law and policy topics at the IAC. The 2015 scholarship winners hailed from Canada, India, the Ukraine, and the United States.

In October, the Secure World Foundation worked with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to organize a side event on “Security through Safety: Linkages between Space Security and International Initiatives for Space Sustainability at the United Nations.” The event was held during the historic joint ad hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees of the United Nations General Assembly, and brought together key voices within the UN system to highlight the importance of a holistic approach to developing a resilient space environment that contributes to the long-term sustainability of space activities.

Throughout 2015, the Secure World Foundation participated in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), a key international organization guiding the development of global earth observation capabilities. In our role as a participating organization, the Secure World Foundation had an active presence at the GEO-XII Plenary and Ministerial Summit held last November in Mexico City. The Foundation participated in the GEO Ministerial Working Group, whose tasks included drafting the Mexico City Declaration that committed GEO to strong support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Foundation also held a side event that brought together international government and industry experts to raise awareness of the risks facing the frequency bands used for meteorological purposes.

In November, the Foundation was honored to partner with the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs and the United Arab Emirates in helping organize the first United Nations High-Level Forum preparing for the UNISPACE +50 Conference in 2018.

Also in November, we were honored to help support the tenth meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), which was held in Colorado, the United States. The ICG is an informal body that promotes cooperation on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services, as well as the compatibility and interoperability of global navigation satellite systems.

The Secure World Foundation was once again a sponsor of the International Space University's Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program, held in January and February of 2016 at the University of South Australia in Adelaide. Our funding and staff support helped develop a white paper on the role of space in enhancing food and water security, which builds on UNOOSA's recent publication on Space for Agriculture Development and Food Security.

On the issue of Near-Earth Objects, Secure World Foundation is part of the planning team helping organize the next Planetary Defense Conference, slated to be held in Japan in April of 2017. Since the inaugural meeting in 2007, the Planetary Defense Conference series has brought together technical, policy, legal, and international experts to share the latest research and explore challenging decision-making scenarios on defending Earth from asteroid impacts.

In conclusion, the Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples. The Foundation fervently believes that the challenge

of sustaining the space environment into the future must be met in a truly international and cooperative manner. 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 will our continued ability to use space capabilities to help solve our most pressing challenges here on Earth.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, the Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of UNCOPUOS in this regard, and we look forward to continuing to support the Committee's efforts to achieve such a future. Thank you for your time.

Secure World Foundation

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