The Code of Conduct: A Starting Point

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Outreach

• 1st draft of the Code of Conduct (CoC) was released for international discussions in October 2010

• Stumble on first diplomatic efforts

• U.S. position: support *a* CoC, use this CoC as a foundation for future discussions

• International meetings held around the world to raise awareness and increase support of the CoC

• 3rd and most recent version of the draft released in September 2013
Strengths

- Being discussed at the state level
- Reinforces good behavior by space actors
- Promotes international cooperation
- Suggests efforts that could serve as excellent confidence-building measures (CBMs)
Weaknesses

• Being discussed at the state level

• The inclusion of “self-defense” has concerned some
  – But this is a right that is included in the United Nations Charter and so its removal could impact some countries’ ability to sign onto the CoC

• Disconnect between what various participants believe the CoC is intended to cover
  – Security issues or simply peaceful use of space?
Prognosis

• Years in the making

• Plan is right now to have it ready for signature by the end of 2014

• Mere fact of international discussion is a positive step

• Effectiveness of CoC in the long-term is how well its norms are carried out
Questions?

Thanks.

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