



Secure World Foundation
Exchange of Views Statement
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
30 January 2018

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

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate the opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since June 2017 in support of the aims of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The Secure World Foundation focuses its activities 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 to support human and environmental security on Earth.

Last year at this meeting, the Secure World Foundation released the first edition of our Handbook for New Actors in Space. The Handbook has had a significant positive response from the community. To date, we have distributed more than 2,600 Handbooks at various meetings and conferences. In order to make getting a physical copy of the Handbook easier, we have recently added the option to purchase it online for a nominal fee. Discounts are available for educational, non-profit, or bulk orders, and the PDF version remains free on our website.

Since June 2017, we have continued our focus on addressing the issue of space debris and improving space situational awareness (SSA) data sharing and collaboration. In September, we partnered with the Maui Economic Development Board to hold the fifth annual Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance (AMOS) Dialogue in Maui, United States, in conjunction with the AMOS Conference. This year's Dialogue focused on possible future scenarios for SSA and space traffic management. Our staff members were also instrumental in the development of the Policy Forum at the AMOS Conference and moderated panel discussions on the evolution of the commercial SSA sector and international perspectives on space traffic management. In November, SWF organized a panel discussion in Washington, DC, to discuss the prospects for, and challenges with, active debris removal (ADR). The event was the third in a series focused on space debris, and featured experts discussing the current state of commercial technology for ADR and the legal and policy challenges that need to be overcome.

As in previous years, the Secure World Foundation participated in the 2017 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 also took place in September in Adelaide, Australia. SWF contributed to panel discussions on space resource utilization and on-orbit satellite servicing, and presented papers on space law, space security and stability, norms of behavior for small satellite operations, and broadening benefits from space resources. As in the past, we also awarded travel scholarships for young professionals to present research papers on space sustainability and law and policy topics at the IAC. The 2017 winners hailed from Australia, Bolivia, Greece, India, Luxembourg, and Malaysia.

In November, the Foundation was honored to once again partner with the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the United Arab Emirates in supporting the third United Nations High-Level Forum. The continued focus of the Forum is the role of space as a driver for sustainable socio-economic development and helping prepare for the UNISPACE +50 Conference in June 2018. SWF staff gave presentations on the linkages between space and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and how to broaden participation in future initiatives to maximize the value of space for sustainable development.

SWF staff continued to highlight the role of space in sustainable development in other events as well. In November, SWF staff attended the Fifth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in Mexico City, Mexico, and gave a presentation with ideas for better utilizing space technology for the SDGs. SWF also co-sponsored a side event at the GEO-XIV Plenary in November 2017 with CREAM, South Big Data Innovation Hub, and The Wilson Center. In this meeting, participants learned more about existing citizen-science projects and observatories and ways to integrate citizen-acquired and established data sources. Building on that event, in December, SWF partnered with South Big Data Hub to host a workshop with experts on citizen science and remote sensing satellites to consider policy challenges and to outline a way of better integrating the two communities.

SWF also continued its focus on facilitating discussions on best practices and norms of responsible behavior. In August, the Foundation organized two side events at the 2017 SmallSat Conference in Logan, Utah, the United States, to discuss best practices for cubesat launch, deployment, and post-mission disposal and participated in a panel discussion on the small satellite community working with governments to establish norms of responsible behavior. On October 3, 2017, a team consisting of SWF,

the University of Southern California's Space Engineering Research Center (SERC), and the Space Infrastructure Foundation (SIF), and led by Advanced Technology International (ATI), was awarded the initial phase of a multi-year contract from the Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA) to establish the Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS). CONFERS is an industry-led initiative with initial seed funding provided by DARPA that aims to leverage best practices from government and industry to research, develop, and publish non-binding, consensus-derived technical and operations standards for on-orbit satellite servicing (OOS) and cooperative rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO). CONFERS will be open to participation by private sector stakeholders in the international satellite servicing community. In November, the Foundation participated in the 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), held in Bengaluru, India. SWF staff highlighted our work in promoting space sustainability and gave presentations on the relationship between private sector space activities and space governance and the role non-governmental organizations can play in promoting best practices.

Finally, Secure World Foundation continued to author and sponsor important research on space governance and space sustainability. In July, SWF staff members published an article in *The Space Review* summarizing the efforts of this committee's Long-Term Sustainability Working Group, and the important role that the guidelines can play in establishing norms of behavior that enhance space sustainability. In December, McGill University published its Global Space Governance Study. This comprehensive work compiles contributions from a wide range of international experts and some of the SWF staff to provide an interdisciplinary perspective on space governance. SWF helped sponsor the conferences that led to the report's development as well as its distribution via USB drives to all delegations at this meeting.

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.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, the Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of COPUOS in this regard and looks 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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