



**Secure World Foundation**

**Exchange of Views Statement**

**United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

**February 2019**

Madam Chair, the Secure World Foundation (SWF) is pleased to see you once again leading our deliberations at this session of the STSC. We are looking forward to working with you and the rest of the subcommittee members on promoting and enhancing 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 2018 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.

In particular, we would once again like to congratulate this committee on the hard work it put in over the last several years to reach consensus on a preambular text and 21 guidelines for enhancing the long-term sustainability of space activities. We realize that there is still much work to be done in this area, including implementation of the existing guidelines and further discussions on additional guidelines, but believe these guidelines form an important first step for further international work in this area. Throughout the coming year, Secure World Foundation plans to promote awareness of the guidelines and the work of COPUOS through our printed resources, as well as through events in which SWF staff participate or organize.

In this regard, we are pleased to be a co-sponsor, together with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transportation, Innovation and Technology and the European Centre for Space Law national focal point in Austria, of a special lunch time panel event convened by the delegations of Austria, Brazil and South Africa, that will take place on Tuesday at 1:00PM here in Boardroom D to discuss the implementation of the already agreed LTS guidelines. Details of this event have been distributed to delegations in the pigeon holes.

On the organizational front, we are very pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Dr. Peter Martinez, whom this Committee knows well from his time as the former chair of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities. Dr. Martinez takes over for Dr. Michael Simpson, who has retired from SWF after seven years of outstanding work leading our organization.

Two years ago, 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 4,500 Handbooks at various meetings and conferences around the world and we will continue to do so. In order to make getting a physical copy

of the Handbook easier, we also offer 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. The details are available on the SWF website at [swfound.org/handbook](http://swfound.org/handbook).

Since June 2018, we have continued our focus on addressing the issue of space debris and improving space situational awareness (SSA) data sharing and collaboration. In June, we partnered with the Indian National Institute for Advanced Studies to hold a two-day workshop in Bengaluru, India, that brought together interdisciplinary experts from around the world to discuss trends in governmental and private sector SSA capabilities, program, and data sharing initiatives. Also in June, we organized a panel discussion in Washington, DC, to discuss the role of space traffic management in enabling sustainable commercial development of space. In September, we once again partnered with the Maui Economic Development Board to hold the sixth annual Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance (AMOS) Dialogue in Maui, United States, in conjunction with the AMOS Conference. The Dialogue focused on the link between SSA and rendezvous and proximity operations in orbit. Our staff members were also instrumental in the development of the Policy Forum at the AMOS Conference and moderated panel discussions on national security aspects of SSA, space traffic management, and improving the safety and transparency of rendezvous and proximity operations. In November, SWF was pleased to co-host with the UMD Center for Orbital Debris Education and Research (CODER) the Fall 2018 CODER Workshop, which focused on technical, policy, and legal issues facing SSA and space traffic management. In January of this year, we partnered with the Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) to hold a two-day workshop in Seoul, Republic of Korea, to discuss global trends in SSA and options for how Korea could develop its national policies and capabilities on SSA.

As in previous years, the Secure World Foundation participated in the 2018 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 Bremen, Germany. At the IAC, SWF contributed to panel discussions on governance of space resource utilization and on-orbit satellite servicing, and presented papers on topics including the role of NGOs in developing space policy, the relationship between corporate social responsibility (CSR) and principles for responsible space operations, the relationship between space insurance and responsible behavior, developing standards for on-orbit servicing and rendezvous and proximity operations, and the role of policy in using citizen science for Earth observation. 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 2018 winners hailed from Chile, China, Greece, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the United States, and Venezuela.

SWF also continued its focus on working with industry to facilitate discussions on best practices and norms of responsible behavior. SWF is part of the Secretariat for the Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS), an independent, industry-led forum created to advocate and promote the satellite servicing industry and encourage responsible commercial rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO) and on-orbit servicing (OOS). Since its formal launch in May 2018, CONFERS has grown to include 24 industry members from the United States, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, and has published its first [Guiding Principles](#) and Design and Operating Practices for commercial satellite servicing. I will be providing more information about CONFERS in a technical presentation later this week.

We would also like to announce that we will be holding the first Summit for Space Sustainability on June 25-26, 2019, in Washington, DC. The Summit will be a recurring event focused on all aspects of space sustainability, including the commercialization and globalization of space, space security, and space governance, and will bring together key international stakeholders to discuss current challenges and potential solutions. The theme of this year's Summit is developing an action plan for bolstering norms of behavior in space. More information will be posted in our newsletter and on our website. We invite you to attend this event and look forward to seeing many of you in Washington, DC, in June.

SWF is also sponsoring the Space2030 Team Project at this year's International Space University (ISU) 2019 Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program (SHSSP), hosted at the University of South Australia, in Adelaide, Australia. The Space2030 Team Project is comprised of 21 international individuals mostly from the Southern Hemisphere. Their mission statement is "To identify and recommend priority items to be included in the Space2030 Agenda from the perspective of the Economic South which advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals." SWF Space Law Advisor Christopher Johnson is chairing the Team Project, and its final report will be finalized this week. The team anticipates that it will bring its findings to various fora, including hopefully to this committee and to other international audiences.

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 kind attention.

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