



**Secure World Foundation**

**Statement issued under Agenda Item 4 - General Exchange of Views**

**62<sup>nd</sup> session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**June 18, 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

The Secure World Foundation extends its congratulations to you on your election to lead the Committee. We look forward to supporting you and the work of the Committee in any way possible. We would also like to thank the outgoing chair, Rosa Maria Ramirez de Arellano y Harro of Mexico, for her stewardship of this Committee over the past calendar year. We also thank the Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms Simoetta di Pippo and her staff for their excellent arrangements for this meeting.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

Global space activity continues to increase and diversify with each passing year. Today there are **more actors** in outer space than ever before, and these actors are also **more diverse**. Space agencies, international organizations, and multinational corporations are being joined by an increasing number of small and medium-sized private-sector entities, public-private partnerships, and academic and amateur operators in space; and these actors are coming from every corner of the globe.

Additionally, with each passing year, there are also **more numerous activities** in outer space; and these activities are becoming more **experimental and more diverse** — including groundbreaking and novel technologies and capabilities which would have been difficult to predict, or even imagine, in the decades past.

Since its establishment, the Secure World Foundation has worked with governments, industry, international organizations, and civil society to develop and promote ideas and actions to achieve the secure, sustainable, and peaceful uses of outer space benefiting Earth and all its peoples.

Space sustainability is at the heart of our mission and we are delighted to note the large number of delegations that have expressed their intention to implement the 21 consensus guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and that have also shown an appetite to continue the LTS discussions in the framework of COPUOS. This reaffirms that COPUOS is the relevant international forum for continued institutionalized dialogue on issues related to the implementation and review of the already agreed guidelines, as well as all other issues pertaining to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

We are encouraged by the spirit of flexibility and optimism that has characterized the discussions on LTS at the present session and we are hopeful that the Committee will reach consensus on the way forward at the present session.

When it comes to promoting wide implementation of the already agreed LTS guidelines, we believe that outreach and capacity building will be important to ensure successful guideline implementation by the widest

possible cross-section of States, and we are open to working with the Committee and interested member states to support these capacity building and outreach efforts.

Mr Chairman,

Permit me now to briefly highlight some of our activities during the past year. During 2018 we completed 120 activities in over 20 countries on six continents. I will refer only to a few indicative examples of the activities related to the agenda of this Committee.

In 2018, SWF continued to participate in the work of the Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group, a non-governmental forum that has been working on the identification and formulation of building blocks for the future international governance of space resource activities. The Working Group has almost reached completion of its 20 Building Blocks on space resources governance, which will then be available as a resource to support the considerations of the international community on this topic, including in the Legal Subcommittee under the dedicated single-year item on a “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources”, which is scheduled for the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, in 2020.

In order to build capacity in African countries to develop well considered positions on space resource matters and to engage purposefully in international dialogues on space resources, in May 2019, Secure World Foundation and the South African Space Agency co-organized a two-day workshop on Socio-economic Benefits of Space Resources Utilization. The workshop brought together diplomats from several African countries and experts from terrestrial mining, space agencies, space industry, and academia to discuss questions of space resources benefits in the developing/emerging space nation context. We plan to organize similar events in other regions of the world and would welcome working with interested local partners.

Mr Chairman,

Increasingly, new ideas, new concepts, and new activities in space are originating in the private sector. The private sector is also moving at a faster rate of development than traditional State actors in space, in part because private actors are often more open to innovation and to risk-taking than traditional State actors. The private sector also has accumulated much experience in the conduct of space activities and can support the development of norms responsible behaviour in space.

In 2018 SWF continued working with industry to facilitate discussions on best practices and norms of responsible behavior for commercial on-orbit servicing and close-proximity operations. 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 and on-orbit servicing operations. Since its formal launch in May 2018, CONFERS has grown to include 28 industry members from the United States, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, and has published its first Guiding Principles and Recommended Design and Operating Practices for commercial satellite servicing, and is currently working with the International Organization for Standards to begin work on an international standard for satellite servicing. Participation in CONFERS is open to any private sector organization working on commercial satellite servicing, or rendezvous and proximity operations, or active debris removal.

The continuing sustainability of the space domain has many facets, including the security domain. Last month in Geneva, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) organized and hosted a conference in the latest iteration of its Space Security series, entitled Supporting *Diplomacy: Clearing the Path for Dialogue*. Partners for the conference included the Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, The Holy See, The Simons Foundation, the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, as well as the Secure World Foundation. Comprehensive and fruitful presentations and discussions were held between invited experts and Geneva-based delegates on what has been achieved in the UN multilateral processes, as well as issues to be addressed for progress forward.

In light of these existing and emerging issues, we would also like to remind this Committee that the Secure World Foundation will be holding the [Summit for Space Sustainability](#) in Washington, DC on 25 and 26 June. The Summit will focus 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 the Summit is developing an action plan for bolstering norms of behavior in space. We invite you to attend this event and look forward to seeing many of you in Washington.

Distinguished delegates,  
as an outline for how space, and OOSA specifically, contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the so-called “Space2030 agenda”, which represents the primary international agenda for space as a driver of sustainable development, and the Secure World Foundation firmly intends to support and participate in efforts of this Committee to successfully carry out that agenda.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, the Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of COPUOS, and we look forward to continuing to support this Committee’s efforts under your able leadership. Thank you for your kind attention.

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