

SECURE WORLD FOUNDATION

Statement under Agenda Item 4.
*Information on the Activities of International Intergovernmental
and Non-governmental Organizations Relating to Space Law*

Sixty-fourth Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

May 2025

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates and observers,

On behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate this opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since April 2024 in support of the aims of the Legal Subcommittee. The Secure World Foundation is a Non-governmental Organization granted permanent observer status at this Committee in 2008, and special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2010.

Secure World Foundation focuses its activities on three primary themes. The first is ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities; the second is fostering the development of sound space policy and law; and the third is enhancing the use of space technology and international cooperation to support human and environmental security on Earth.

In July 2024, Secure World Foundation organized the sixth *Summit for Space Sustainability* in Tokyo, Japan. We thank our co-host, the Cabinet Office, Space Policy Secretariat, of the Government of Japan, for the successful collaboration and co-organization of the event. The Summit was attended in-person and online by more than 550 participants from 37 states. Key themes discussed included: active debris removal progress and challenges; regional space situational awareness initiatives and their connection to global efforts and partnership models; and sustainability challenges presented by space exploration activities. In 2025, the seventh *Summit for Space Sustainability* will be held in Paris, France, October 22–23, co-hosted with the Centre National D'études Spatiales (CNES) and the Government of France. Further details can be found on the website swfsummit.org.

In October of 2024, SWF released the second edition of the *Handbook for New Actors in Space*. This guide provides up-to-date information on the existing legal frameworks, national regulation and policy, and operational best practices for safe and sustainable space activities.

Also in October, the Foundation supported the first UN Space Bridge event on Space Traffic Coordination, which was convened by the Office for Outer Space Affairs at the UN Headquarters in New York City. This event brought together experts from governments and the commercial sector to discuss the way forward to address the complex issues of space traffic coordination in multilateral fora.

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates, we are pleased to announce today the release of an updated version of our *COPUOS Briefing Book*. The updated *COPUOS Briefing Book* is a comprehensive guide to the history and current work of COPUOS, its two subcommittees, and its Working Groups. In partnership with Intersputnik, a fellow observer delegation at this Committee, we are pleased to offer French, Spanish, and Russian translations of the *COPUOS Briefing Book*. All versions of the *COPUOS Briefing Book* are also now available in electronic format on our website. We also have a number of printed copies available for free distribution here at this session.

Lastly, and rather than make a separate statement under agenda item 5, we'd like to draw delegations attention to our Conference Room Paper "[*Growth of Committee Membership and Universalisation of the Five United Nations Treaties on Space Law*](#)". The past decade has seen a notable growth in membership to the various United Nations treaties on outer space, along with increasing membership of this Committee. COPUOS now has one hundred and four Member States. What are the implications of the growth of Committee membership on the universalization of the existing United Nations space treaties? Our conference room paper compares COPUOS membership with membership to the various UN space treaties.

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates, the Secure World Foundation looks forward to continuing to support the Committee's efforts to achieve and sustain the continued peaceful uses of outer space.

Thank you for your kind attention.

