Russia’s Space Plans: Engagement in International Fora

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• **Key question:** What role does Russia *currently* play in international fora that address space sustainability and security issues?

• **Answer:**
  – Leading space power
  – Navigating between the other two space powers, the US and China

• **Cases:**
  – COPUOS & the LTSSA Working Group
  – Conference on Disarmament & the PPWT
  – UNGA First Committee & the GGE
• **United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS):**
  – Negotiates civil space issues
  – Two subcommittees: Legal and Scientific & Technical

• **LTSSA Working Group:** Long-term Sustainability of Space Activities

• **Terms of Reference in June 2011:**
  – Russia played an obstructive role
  – Insistent on State-centric format
Conference on Disarmament & the PPWT

• **Conference on Disarmament (CD):** Charged with negotiating Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), deadlocked for 15 years

• **PPWT:** draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects
  – Draft submitted to CD in 2008
  – Three main goals: no weapons in space, no use of force or threat of use of force against space objects
  – Blocked by United States

• **Russia seems more flexible than China on the PPWT**
• **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) First Committee**: the UNGA body that negotiates Disarmament and International Security issues

• **Resolution 63/68 and the GGE on space TCBMs**
  – Sponsored by Russia
  – Calls for Secretary-General to establish Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) to examine Transparency and Confidence-building Measures (TCBMs) in Outer Space Activities
  – Goal is to produce a consensus report with recommendations on TCBMs
  – 15 experts will meet at three meetings: July 23-27, 2012 in NYC; April 1-5, 2013 in Geneva; and July 8-12, 2013 in NYC
  – Group composition and Chairmanship will be decided next year
Concluding Remarks

• **Key question:** What role does Russia currently play in international fora that address space sustainability and security issues? What role *can* Russia play?

• **Answer:** In three key bodies, Russia maintains its position as a leading spacepower and is trying to navigate between the other two dominant forces, the United States and China
  
  – This works because the US and Russia have an established an effective working relationship on space issues
  
  – Also works because Russia has, thus far, been supportive of shared space sustainability goals

• **Graham Allison and Robert Blackwill on why Russia still matters:**
  
  – Russia is still a leading spacepower
  
  – Russia can help determine whether or not China plays responsibly in space
Questions?

Thanks!

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