



***Exchange of Views Statement,
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
June 2012***

Mr. Chairman, we of Secure World Foundation extend our congratulations on your steadfast and thoughtful guidance of this committee. Secure World Foundation (SWF) looks forward to supporting you and the work of the committee in any way it can.

We also note the continued efforts by the Office of Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) under the direction of Dr. Mazlan Othman to buttress the peaceful uses of outer space. We are confident that this committee and OOSA will continue successfully to provide effective support for the peaceful uses of outer space resources, especially for emerging space States.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity today to present the Foundation's work in support of the aims of COPUOS. Secure World Foundation focuses its work on four primary themes: the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, the development of sound space policy and law, the governance of the use of space capabilities in support of human and environmental security, and the protection of Earth and its peoples from near Earth objects.

This April, SWF partnered with the Secretario Pro Tempore (SPT) of the Space Conference of the Americas, El Centro Regional de Enseñanza de Ciencia y Tecnología del Espacio para América Latina y el Caribe (CRECTEALC) and the Agencia Espacio Mexicana (AEM) on a highly successful 3-day series of international forums entitled "Space for Human and Environmental Security in the Americas: Space policy, Long-term sustainability and Cyber-health." Participants from Brazil, Canada, the European Union, Mexico, Portugal, and Venezuela took part. Among other things, the workshop provided the catalyst for several follow-up international cooperative programs using space technologies, including one to investigate the recent worrying activity of the volcano Popocatepetl near Mexico City and another to limit the effects of Chagas disease, a vector-borne disease that affects some 18 million individuals throughout the world.

SWF has continued to partner with UN-SPIDER. The 5th International UN-SPIDER workshop on Disaster Management and Space Technology was held in Bonn, Germany. The workshop focused on strengthening global synergies through knowledge management, portals and networks bringing together more than fifty experts from Asia, Australia, Africa and Latin America. It provided the forum for UN-SPIDER to gather elements to update its knowledge management strategy, particularly regarding the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal. The workshop was co-organized by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and supported by Secure World Foundation, the City of Bonn and the German Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMW).

This spring, SWF released a call for student papers in preparation for its upcoming 2012 Beijing Space Sustainability Conference in partnership with Beihang University and the International Space University. The conference will feature two sessions of student papers on selected technical and law and policy topics related to space sustainability. The call for papers is open to any graduate student and abstracts can be submitted before July 15, 2012. Details can be found on the SWF website.

In May, SWF's DC office hosted a panel discussion on "International Perspectives on Space Sustainability from Africa, Asia, and Latin America." The goal was to have a broad overview of international approaches to and concerns about space sustainability, and to bring perspectives not often heard to DC policy-makers. Speakers were: Dr. Abiodun Adigun, African Space Foundation; Amb. Ciro Arevalo, Chairman of the International Astronautical Federation's Regional Group for Latin America and the Caribbean; Dr. Sergio Camacho, Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC); Dr. Fan Yonggang, Institute of Policy and Management, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Wing Cmdr Ajey Lele, Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses; Prof. Li Bin, Beihang University; Dr. Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, Observer Research Foundation; Dr. Kazuto Suzuki, Hokkaido University.

Once again, SWF co-organized the annual conference on space security with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). It was organized in collaboration with The Simons Foundation and the governments of the People's Republic of China, The Russian Federation, and The United States of America, and aimed to provide information and critical analysis of space security issues to Geneva's disarmament community. This year the conference outlined the basics of space security, while providing an outlook on the future of space security and the potential progress to be made. The conference also explored technical challenges and transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs).

SWF's Brussels office convened and facilitated two meetings that were timely, germane and important within the space policy community.

The first aimed to review the current status of the European Union (EU) proposal for the International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. SWF brought together experts on March 8 in Brussels, Belgium to take part in a special panel titled: "International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities" - The International Perspective. The group of specialists examined the Code's current status, challenges, and the way forward from the point of view of several States.

For the second event, Secure World Foundation brought together leading experts on Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) to participate in a thought-provoking panel discussion. Specialists examined the current status of GMES, challenges facing the program, and future opportunities. In addition the overall relevance and importance of GMES was detailed by panelists.

In May, SWF, together with the Polish Space Research Center, organized a workshop on Use of Space Applications in Humanitarian Operations. It was devoted to presenting and discussing optimal utilization of space applications in support of humanitarian efforts during large-scale crises. The core parts of the workshop were a full-day simulation of a humanitarian operation (with the active involvement of all participants) and a half-day evaluation and discussions. The simulation was designed as an interactive game and it fostered a large number of topics through a realistic exercise.

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In conclusion, Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples. It acts as a research body, convener and facilitator to advocate for international cooperation in solving the problems of space debris, orbital crowding and other manmade threats to the space environment. The Foundation fervently believes that the challenge of sustaining the ability of humankind to use the space environment now and in the future must be met in a truly international, cooperative manner.

Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of COPUOS. 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 the space age evolves, the world community has a unique opportunity to safeguard the secure and sustainable use of the space environment. We look forward to supporting the Committee's efforts to achieve such a future.

Many thanks.

Secure World Foundation
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