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Statement under Agenda Item 4. *General Exchange of Views and Introduction of Reports Submitted on National Activities*

Sixtieth Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

February 2024

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, and observers, on behalf of Secure World Foundation (SWF), I appreciate this opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since February 2023 in support of the aims of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. 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 June 2023, SWF organized our fifth *Summit for Space Sustainability* in New York City. The more than 500 in-person and virtual participants experienced a keynote from Guy Ryder, the UN Undersecretary-General for Policy who linked space sustainability to the broader set of global challenges, along with a host of other substantive discussions and valuable networking opportunities. We are pleased to announce that the sixth Summit for Space Sustainability will be held as an in-person event this July 11-12 in Tokyo, Japan. This year's summit is co-hosted with the National Space Policy Secretariat of the Cabinet Office, Japanese Government, and in coordination the APAC's leading commercial space conference, SPACETIDE 2024, which will take place in Tokyo from July 8-10. We cordially invite all delegations to attend. More information is available at the website swfsummit.org.

In March 2023, we saw the successful completion of our first two Space Sustainability Research Fellows, who published new research on two key areas related to space governance. Ms. Claire Oto focused her research on polycentric decision-making in global space governance and Mr. Daniel Patton looked at the various ways of thinking about space as a global commons. Their reports and a video recording of the webinar summarizing their findings can be found on the SWF website.

In April 2023, SWF completed its direct role in supporting the Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS), which focuses on developing best practices and standards for commercial satellite servicing activities. We successfully transitioned CONFERS from a DARPA-funded startup to a completely independent private sector entity, where it has continued to grow and expand its work to develop global standards and best practices for satellite servicing.

In December 2023, SWF partnered with the Chinese Society of Astronautics and Caelus Foundation to hold the 7th dialogue between Chinese and American space industry stakeholders. Last December's dialogue focused on the topic of: *Satellite Constellations for Connectivity and Societal Infrastructure*. This dialogue exchanged viewpoints on how to address the shared challenges in sustainable and safe deployment and operations of large satellite constellations, including the need for operator to operator coordination.

We have also continued our efforts to address orbital debris and improve space situational awareness (SSA) data sharing and collaboration, with a particular focus on how to leverage the growing number of industry and civil society best practices to move towards a global set of space traffic management standards. This was the theme of panel discussions organized by SWF at the 12th IAASS Space Safety Conference in Osaka, Japan, in May, and the AMOS Conference in Hawaii in September.

In addition to our participation in COPUOS, Secure World Foundation remains an active organization in the Group on Earth Observation. Last December, SWF participated in the GEO Ministerial Summit in Cape Town, South Africa, and contributed extensively to the 'GEO Post-2025 Strategy: Earth Intelligence for All' as part of our official role on the GEO Programme Board.

Finally, we would like to remind all delegations that we recently published our newest publication, the *COPUOS Briefing Book*, at last year's plenary session. The COPUOS Briefing Book is a comprehensive

guide on the history and current work of both COPUOS and its two subcommittees, including leadership, agendas, working methods, and deliverables. It is available in electronic format on our website and I also have a limited number of hardcopies available with me today.

Madam 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.

