



Secure World Foundation
Welcoming Remarks
United Nations/United Arab Emirates - High Level Forum: Space as a
Driver for Socio-Economic Sustainable Development

November 2016

It seems a bit strange to welcome people to a work site. Welcomes seem natural at celebrations or parties, but somehow less so at gatherings that promise as much hard labor as does this one.

Yet where tasks are hard and work is critical the presence of many hands, keen minds, and much talent is welcome indeed.

The work before us is some of the most important of the space age. With nearly 60 years of spaceflight experience behind us we seek to prepare an agenda that will guide our deliberations for at least the next 10 or 12.

We do this knowing that the amount of change we will confront between the close of the UNISPACE+50 Conference in 2018 and 2030, the year the world will account for its progress on the Sustainable Development Goals will likely be as great as what we have witnessed in the entire previous decades of the space age.

Early next year, Secure World Foundation will publish the first edition of a Handbook for New Actors in Space. In preparing this volume we have been impressed by how different the space arena has become with the addition of new participants, new technologies, and new capabilities.

With much advice and counsel from many of you in this room, we have reconciled ourselves to inevitably frequent revisions as the work of this body and the UNISPACE+50 Conference it prepares takes root in new policy, new understandings, and new opportunities for cooperation in space activity.

Ultimately, of course, policy action emerging from these meetings will be the work of states. But as one voice of civil society privileged to be a part of this gathering, I can assure you on behalf of Secure World Foundation that we are willing and able to be hard-working partners in thought, development, and communication as we proceed.

The Secure World Foundation has stepped forward as a co-sponsor of these fora because we want this work to succeed and have faith that the long history of international cooperation that has prevailed in the space sector will be equal to the task of finding well adapted solutions to the challenges of space sustainability in this highly dynamic and innovative environment.

I look forward to hearing your ideas and insights as the week progresses.

And to sharing the work that these ideas and insights will inspire.

Secure World Foundation
<http://www.swfound.org>