



Secure World Foundation
Exchange of Views Statement
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
April 2018

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation (SWF) congratulates you on your election to the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee. We are pleased that this Subcommittee continues to provide effective support for the peaceful uses of outer space, including the long-term sustainable use of space for benefits on Earth.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate the opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since June 2017 in support of the aims of the Legal Subcommittee. The 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.

Last year, the Secure World Foundation released the first edition of our *Handbook for New Actors in Space*. The *Handbook* has had a significant positive response from the community. To date, we have distributed more than 2,600 copies at various meetings and conferences. In order to make getting a physical copy of the *Handbook* easier, we have recently added the option to purchase it online for a nominal fee. Discounts are available for educational, non-profit, or bulk orders, and the PDF version remains free on our website. The details are available on the SWF website at

www.swfound.org/handbook

Since June 2017, we have continued our focus on addressing the issue of space debris and improving space situational awareness (SSA) data sharing and collaboration. In September, we partnered with the Maui Economic Development Board to hold the fifth annual Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance (AMOS) Dialogue in Maui, United States, in conjunction with the AMOS Conference. This year's dialogue focused on possible future scenarios for SSA and space traffic management. Our staff members were also instrumental in the development of the Policy Forum at the AMOS Conference and moderated panel discussions on the evolution of the commercial SSA capabilities and international perspectives on space traffic management. In November, SWF organized a panel discussion in Washington, DC, to discuss the prospects for, and challenges with, active debris removal (ADR). The event was the third in a series focused on space debris, and featured experts discussing the current state of commercial technology for ADR and the legal and policy challenges that need to be overcome.

As in previous years, the Secure World Foundation participated in the 2017 International Astronautical Congress (IAC), and supported both the Space Generation Congress and the World Finals of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, all of which also took place in September in Adelaide, Australia. SWF contributed to panel discussions on space resource utilization and on-orbit satellite servicing, and presented papers on space law, space security and stability, norms of behavior for small satellite operations, and broadening benefits from space resources. As in the past, we also awarded travel scholarships for young professionals to present research papers on space sustainability and law and policy topics at the IAC. The 2017 winners hailed from Australia, Bolivia, Greece, India, Luxembourg, and Malaysia.

In November, the Foundation was honored to once again partner with the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the United Arab Emirates in supporting the third United Nations High-Level Forum. The continued focus of the Forum is the role of space as a driver for sustainable

socio-economic development and helping prepare for the UNISPACE +50 Conference in 2018. SWF staff gave presentations on the linkages between space and the Sustainable Development Goals, and how to broaden participation in future initiatives to maximize the value of space for sustainable development.

SWF also continued its focus on working with industry to facilitate discussions on best practices and norms of responsible behavior. In August, the Foundation organized two side events at the 2017 SmallSat Conference in Logan, Utah, the United States, to discuss best practices for launch and deployment of cubesats and cubesat post-mission disposal, and participated in a panel discussion on the smallsat community working with governments to establish norms of responsible behavior. In October, a team consisting of SWF, the University of Southern California's Space Engineering Research Center (SERC), and the Space Infrastructure Foundation (SIF), and led by Advanced Technology International (ATI), was awarded the initial phase of a multi-year contract from the Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA) to establish the Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS). CONFERS is an industry-led initiative with initial seed funding provided by DARPA that aims to leverage best practices from government and industry to research, develop, and publish non-binding, consensus-derived technical and operations standards for on orbit servicing (OOS) and rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO). CONFERS will be open to participation by private sector stakeholders in the international satellite servicing community. In November, the Foundation participated in the 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), held in Bengaluru, India. SWF staff highlighted our work in promoting space sustainability and gave presentations on the relationship between private sector space activities and space governance and the role non-governmental organizations can play in promoting best practices.

In January, SWF co-organized a one-day event on space insurance in Washington, DC aimed at fostering a discussion on the role and importance of the insurance industry in incentivizing responsible behavior

and best practices among satellite operators. The participants were able to determine that space insurers would like to promote better behavior, but are limited structural factors in the space insurance market. SWF will continue to pursue a better understanding of market mechanisms for promoting responsible behavior by coordinating a similar meeting with investors later in 2018 and by hosting a discussion on the commercial sector and norms for responsible space behavior at the Space Symposium in Colorado next week.

Secure World Foundation was pleased to accept the invitation of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to participate in the seminar hosted late last month by the Vatican Observatory. Entitled "Exploration and Development of Space Opportunities and Issues in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals," this project continues an important discussion about how space technology will help meet the ambitious targets set by the SDGs. We applaud both OOSA and the Holy See for their commitment to this effort.

Distinguished delegates, I would also like to draw your attention to the important work being done by the The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group. In September, the Working Group agreed to publicly circulate the draft building blocks for the development of an international framework on space resource activities as the preliminary result of its work. This work is far from over, and the Working Group, to which Secure World Foundation is a member, invites comments to inform its further consideration of the building blocks. Comments and further input are welcome until 1 July 2018, and more details can be found on the website of the International Institute of Air and Space Law at the University of Leiden.

In conclusion, the Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples. The Foundation fervently believes that the challenge of sustaining the space environment into the future must be met in a truly international and cooperative

manner. 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 will our continued ability to use space capabilities to help solve our most pressing challenges here on Earth.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of COPUOS in this regard, and looks forward to continuing to support the Committee's efforts to achieve such a future. Thank you for your time.

Secure World Foundation

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