



Statement by Christopher Johnson, Secure World Foundation,
on Agenda Item 3, "General Exchange of Views"
15 April 2015

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation extends our appreciation to you for your continued excellent guidance of this Subcommittee. We are pleased that this Subcommittee continues to successfully provide effective support to the peaceful uses of outer space, especially for emerging and developing space States. The Secure World Foundation continues to offer its support to the Subcommittee in any way it can.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate this opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since the last session of the Legal Subcommittee on work we have conducted in support of the aims of the Legal Subcommittee.

Secure World focuses its work 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 in support of human and environmental security on Earth.

Over the past year, Secure World has conducted numerous workshops, panels, and other meetings related to space law and space policy.

In December of 2014, Secure World and Astroconsulting International hosted a conversation on Space System Export Controls between the United States and Japan. Participants from various U.S. government agencies, and representatives from non-governmental organizations and think tanks, were invited to participate in a conversation discussing export controls with a delegation of industry representatives from the Society of Japanese Aerospace Companies. The goal of the discussion was to share the U.S. experience with export control reform with our Japanese colleagues.

McGill Newspace

In March of 2015, Secure World sponsored and participated in the third Manfred Lachs International Conference on NewSpace Commercialization and the Law, held in Montreal, Canada. Secure World presented on the political and security implications of on-orbit servicing, and our Executive Director, Dr. Michael Simpson, chaired sessions and participated in a panel considering international initiatives to regulate emerging and next-generation commercial activities in outer space.

International Law and Military Activities in Space

In March 2015, Secure World Foundation and the George Washington University Military Law Society hosted a panel discussion on the relationship between international law and military activities in space. Over the last several decades, legal scholars and practitioners have clarified the rules of international law applicable to military activities in several domains, with documents such as the Harvard Manual on International Law Applicable to Air and Missile Warfare, and most recently the Tallinn Manual on the International Law Applicable to Cyber

Warfare. However, to date there have not been significant attempts to clarify how international law applies to military activities in space. The panel discussion provided an overview of international law as it applies to military activities, and of the potential benefits of further clarifying existing norms and interpretations of international law as these apply to the space domain.

UNIDIR Geneva Conference

Also in March of 2015, Secure World and UNIDIR, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, hosted a discussion on *“The Principles of Self-Defence in Space: National Perspectives and Critical Issues”* at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. Interpreting how existing national commitments on the inherent right to self-defence, as enshrined in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, should be applied in the outer space environment, is a key step in moving toward a more stable space environment. There is currently significant divergence among many members of the international community on the way forward. In light of ongoing discussions on norms of behavior and new legally binding agreements focused on space security, this meeting was an opportunity for States to share perspectives and viewpoints on key issues such as the concept of an armed attack for outer space, proportional responses, the principle of distinction in outer space, and radiofrequency interference.

Regional Workshop on LTS

in April of 2015, in San Jose, Costa Rica, Secure World Foundation co-organized a regional workshop on the long-term sustainability of space activities. This two day workshop, co-organized with the Central American Association for Aeronautics and Space (ACAE), and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, engaged representatives from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean (GRULAC) countries who are members of COPUOS. In the context of the UNCOPUOS long-term sustainability (LTS) guidelines effort and other international initiatives to promote long-term space sustainability, this workshop served as a platform to advance regional space sustainability discussions within Latin America. The workshop engaged space policy experts and GRULAC delegates in an active discussion on the

LTS guidelines effort, other relevant international and regional sustainability activities, and opportunities for progress in this area.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all of its peoples. We act as a research body, a convener of discussions, and a facilitator advocating for international cooperation in solving the problems of space debris, orbital crowding, and other threats to the sustainable use outer space. The Secure World Foundation strongly believes that the challenges of sustaining the space environment into the future must be met in a truly international and cooperative manner. Delegations may learn more about our foundation by visiting our website at www.swfound.org.

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation 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 will our continued ability to use space capabilities to help solve our most pressing challenges here on Earth. Thus, we are presented with both challenges and opportunities to the continued beneficial use of space for all of humanity. We look forward to continuing to support this Subcommittee's efforts to achieve such a future.

Thank you for your time.