



Secure World Foundation
Exchange of Views Statement
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
31 January 2017

Madam Chair, the Secure World Foundation (SWF) extend our congratulations to you on your election, and look forward to your guidance of this Subcommittee over the next year. 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.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate the opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since June 2016 in support of the aims of the Scientific and Technical 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 in support of human and environmental security on Earth.

In July, Secure World Foundation co-organized a panel discussion with the Silicon Valley Space Business Roundtable to discuss the changing relationships among the geospatial, space, and Earth observation communities, and the implications of how these communities are defined. Issues in the discussion included defining stakeholder roles and responsibilities, government oversight and licensing, and the interoperability of disparate data sources and analysis platforms.

In August and September, we continued our focus on improving space situational awareness (SSA) data sharing and collaboration with a focus on small satellites. In August, the Foundation organized a side event at the 2016 SmallSat Conference in Logan, Utah, the United States, to discuss SSA best practices for small satellite and cubesat operators, including orbit determination, conjunction assessment, and collision avoidance. In September, we partnered with the Maui Economic Development Board to hold the fourth 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 steps that both small satellite operators and SSA providers can take to improve detection, tracking, identification, and conjunction assessment for small satellites. Our staff members were also instrumental in the development of the Policy Forum at the AMOS Conference, which included panel discussions on "Space Traffic Management," "International SSA Operator Exchange," and "Space Situational Awareness and Small Satellites."

As in previous years, the Secure World Foundation participated in the 2016 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 Guadalajara, Mexico. The Foundation helped facilitate a discussion among students and young professionals at the Space Generation Congress on their input to the UNISPACE+50 planning process, and provided expertise on the spectrum allocation process and small satellites to several of the team projects. We also once again awarded travel scholarships for young professionals to present research papers on space sustainability and law and policy topics at the IAC. The 2016 winners hailed from Indonesia, Italy, Mauritius, Nigeria, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In October, the Foundation partnered with the U.S. Department of State to hold an event recognizing the accomplishments of COPUOS in publishing the first set of consensus long-term sustainability guidelines. The event brought together top U.S. and international space policy experts from governments, industry, and academia to discuss the current state of the discussions on long-term sustainability guidelines, national implementation strategies, and next steps for the international community to ensure that space is sustainable over the long-term.

Throughout 2016, the Secure World Foundation continued to support multiple efforts to enhance the ability to use earth remote sensing data for socioeconomic benefit. In September, we worked with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to help support the Regional Satellite Data Requirements Coordination Group meeting in Latin America. Also in September, the Foundation, in cooperation with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS), NASA Servir, NOAA, and the Space Trust, organized and supported a workshop in Nepal on the use of digital elevation model data from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM2) for planning and disaster mitigation. Finally, in November, SWF staff participated in the thirteenth GEO Plenary, held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In November, the Foundation was honored to partner with the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the United Arab Emirates in helping organize the first United Nations High-Level Forum. The focus of the Forum was the role of space as a driver for sustainable socio-economic development and helping prepare for the UNISPACE +50 Conference in 2018. SWF staff led breakout discussions on measuring the value of space benefits, the role of space in the sustainable development goals, small satellites, and space sustainability.

Also in November, the Foundation partnered with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) to co-organize a tabletop exercise (TTX) on Space Crisis Dynamics and Uncertainty in Washington, DC. The goal of the TTX was to raise awareness about the risks of escalation and crisis stability and to identify gaps or shortcomings in existing national and international policies, strategies, communication channels, and political/legal mechanisms. The output of the TTX will be used to inform future work on developing new mechanisms to enhance space security and reduce the risk of a crisis involving space capabilities escalating to armed conflict.

In December, the Foundation partnered with the Colorado Space Business Roundtable to organize a panel discussion on the role of commercial space in international space cooperation. The event brought together the Director of UNOOSA and local Colorado business leaders to network and exchange ideas.

On the issue of Near-Earth Objects, Secure World continues to be part of the planning team helping organize the next Planetary Defense Conference, which will be held in Japan in May. Since the inaugural meeting in 2007, the Planetary Defense Conference series has been a key meeting to bring together technical, policy, legal, and international experts to share the latest research and explore challenging decision-making scenarios on defending Earth from asteroid impacts.

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.

Madam Chair, 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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