



Secure World Foundation

Information on Activities of Non-Governmental Organizations

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Legal Subcommittee

April 2019

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation is pleased to see you once again leading deliberations at this session of the Legal Subcommittee. We are looking forward to working with you and the rest of the Subcommittee members on promoting and enhancing 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 2018 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 of international cooperation to support human and environmental security here on Earth.

In particular, we would once again like to congratulate this Committee on the hard work it put in over the last several years to reach consensus on the preambular text and 21 guidelines for enhancing the long-term sustainability of space activities. We realize that there is still much work to be done in this area, including implementation of the existing guidelines and further discussions on additional guidelines, but believe these guidelines form an important first step for further international work in this area. Throughout the coming year, Secure World Foundation plans to promote awareness of the guidelines and the work of COPUOS through our printed resources, as well as through events in which SWF staff participate or organize.

Two years ago, 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 4,500 Handbooks at various meetings and conferences around the world and we will continue to do so. In order to make getting a copy of the Handbook easier, we also offer the option to purchase it online for a nominal fee in physical and eReader formats. 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 swfound.org/handbook.

Secure World Foundation also continues to contribute to the ongoing important work being done by the The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group, of which we are a Member. In October of 2018 the Working Group closed a more than one-year period of public commentary on the Draft Building Blocks for the Development of an International Framework on Space Resource Activities which were published as the preliminary result of the Working Group's work. From November 2018 and continuing through November 2019 the more than 30 members of the Working Group will revise and finalize the Building Blocks based on

public comments received, additional input from the two expert panels that have been established in support of the Working Group, and further deliberations from the Members. The Working Group intends to finalize the Building Blocks by the end of 2019. More details on the Working Group can be found on the website of the International Institute of Air and Space Law at the University of Leiden.

As in previous years, the Secure World Foundation participated in the 2018 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 Bremen, Germany. At the IAC, SWF contributed to panel discussions on governance of space resource utilization and on-orbit satellite servicing, and presented papers on topics including the role of NGOs in developing space policy, the relationship between corporate social responsibility and principles for responsible space operations, the relationship between space insurance and responsible behavior, developing standards for on-orbit servicing and rendezvous and proximity operations, and the role of policy in using citizen science for Earth observation. 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 2018 winners hailed from Chile, China, Greece, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the United States, and Venezuela.

We would also like to announce that we will be holding the first Summit for Space Sustainability on June 25 and 26 in Washington, DC this summer. The Summit will be a recurring event focused on all aspects of space sustainability, including the commercialization and globalization of space, space security, and space governance, and will bring together key international stakeholders to discuss current challenges and potential solutions. The theme of this year's Summit is developing an action plan for bolstering norms of behavior in space. More information will be posted in our newsletter and on our website. We invite you to attend this event, and look forward to seeing many of you in Washington, DC, in June.

On the organizational front, we are very pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Dr. Peter Martinez, whom this Committee knows well from his time as the former chair of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities. Dr. Martinez takes over for Dr. Michael Simpson, who has retired from our organization after seven years of outstanding work leading our organization.

In conclusion, the Secure World 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 advance in sophistication, 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 kind attention.

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