



Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Sustainability

Multilateral Discussions of Norms for Space Security and Stability

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Note: This briefing is compiled entirely from public, unclassified sources

Norms in Space Governance

- Much of the existing space governance framework is based on norms
 - Example: Freedom of overflight for satellite reconnaissance
 - Launch of Sputnik in 1957 helped set the norm that satellite overflight did not breach territorial sovereignty
 - By mid-1960s, freedom of overflight was a generally accepted norm
 - Was not codified into “hard law” until Outer Space Treaty of 1967
- Norms are likely going to be the main mechanism to address future challenges
 - Far more space actors than ever before, with diverse interests and goals
 - Increasingly challenging to get global consensus on new “hard law”

SWF's Counterspace Threat Assessment

- Space domain undergoing significant changes
- Existence of counterspace capabilities is not new, but the circumstances surrounding them are
- Discussions of space capabilities often veer quickly into classified territory
- *Global Counterspace Capabilities: An Open Source Assessment*
 - Significant research and development of a broad range of destructive and non-destructive counterspace capabilities in multiple countries: direct ascent, co-orbital, electronic warfare, directed energy, cyber
 - US, Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, India, France, and Japan
 - ***Only non-destructive capabilities are actively being used in current military operations***
- <https://swfound.org/counterspace>



Multilateral Discussions (1)

- Challenging to accurately include all stakeholders because very state-centric
- Limitations of the way the UN is set up to discuss space security issues
- OST
- PPWT/NFP
- Code of Conduct
- 2013 GGE on TCBMs

Multilateral Discussions (2)

- Space security discussions have been stymied at the multilateral level
 - Subsidiary Body 3 of the UN Conference on Disarmament
 - GGE on further practical measures for the prevention of an armed race in outer space (PAROS)
 - UN Disarmament Commission Working Group 2
- UK resolution “Reducing Space Threats through Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible Behaviours” A/RES/75/36, Dec. 2020
 - Submit national views to UNSG by May 3
 - UNSG report in time for fall 2021 UNGA

- Question: which fora will be used for this? Will the discussions be bilateral, trilateral, multilateral?
- IncSea – for space?
- Improve general verification capabilities (SSA)
- Enhance communications
- KE-ASAT test ban
 - UNIDIR: no debris, low debris, notification

What are the LTS guidelines?

- In 2010, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) established the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities
- The Working Group was tasked with producing a set of voluntary, non-binding guidelines for all space actors to help ensure the long-term sustainable use of outer space
- The Working Group's mandate ended in June 2018, at which point the UN COPUOS member States reached consensus on 21 guidelines and a context-setting preambular text
- In June 2019, the COPUOS plenary officially adopted these 21 guidelines, and agreed to create a working group under the agenda item of on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The 21 LTS guidelines

- The 21 agreed guidelines comprise a collection of internationally recognized measures for ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and for enhancing the safety of space operations
- **92 Member States agreed on these guidelines**
- Full text of agreed guidelines available in UN document A/AC.105/2018/CRP.20. The four major sections:
 - Policy and regulatory
 - Safety of space operations
 - Cooperation and capacity-building
 - Scientific and technical R&D

Woomera and MILAMOS Manuals

- Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Operations

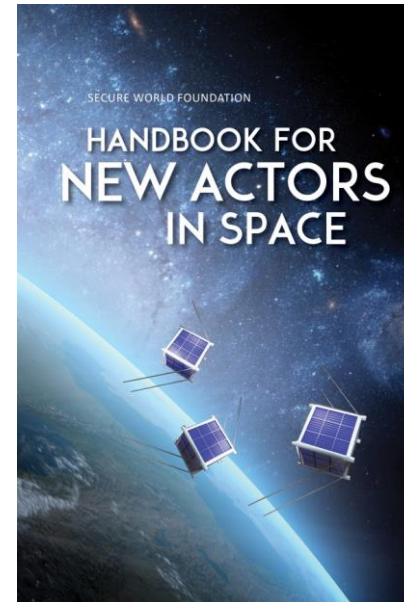


Manual on International
Law Applicable to Military
Uses of Outer Space

- MILAMOS

SWF Handbook for New Actors in Space

- **Goal:** Create a publication that provides an overview fundamental principles, laws, norms, and best practices for safe, predictable, and responsible activities in space
- **Two specific audiences:**
 - Countries developing space programs and/or having to oversee and regulate their first satellites
 - Universities and start-up companies that are developing/operating satellites



www.swfound.org/handbook



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Questions?

Thanks.

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