



Seeking Peaceful Solutions for Global Security

***Exchange of Views Statement,  
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
June 2011***

Mr. Chairman, we of Secure World Foundation extend our congratulations on your steadfast and thoughtful guidance of this committee. Secure World Foundation looks forward to supporting you and the work of the committee in any way it can.

We also note the continued ceaseless efforts by the Office of Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) under the direction of Dr. Mazlan Othman to buttress the peaceful uses of outer space. We are confident that this committee and OOSA will continue successfully to provide effective support for the peaceful uses of outer space resources, especially for emerging space States.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity today to present the Foundation's work in support of the aims of COPUOS. Secure World Foundation focuses its work on four primary themes: the long term sustainability of outer space activities, the development of sound space policy and law, governance of the use of space technology in support of human and environmental security, and protection of Earth and its peoples from near Earth objects.

Under its efforts on space sustainability, this spring the Foundation organized two events focused on key space sustainability concerns. The first of these was a small workshop hosted by our Brussels office centered on verification of space agreements. This March event examined both the technical and political challenges to verification of activities in the space environment.

In April, SWF, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) organized a conference entitled, "Building on the Past, Stepping towards the Future". This meeting covered a range of space security topics including space situational awareness and the role of civil society in contributing to space sustainability. One session that was of particular importance to this committee was the session entitled, " Cross-Institutional Cooperation: Linking and Learning". We were pleased to have the participation of the Chair of this Committee, Mr. Demitru Doran Prunariu in that panel.

It is the position of Secure World Foundation that many of the challenges that we face in making the space environment sustainable in the long-term cannot simply be divided along the traditional lines of peaceful or non-peaceful uses of space. Space debris mitigation, adherence

to “rules of the road” and standardized operating procedures all build predictability and stability in space. Achieving them should be a goal for all space actors, whether civil, military or commercial. Effective institutional and intellectual cross-fertilization between and among all involved parties can play a key role on dealing with such cross-cutting foundational issues. Secure World Foundation stands ready to assist in this process.

One way in which Secure World Foundation seeks to bridge the gap in understanding and interests between different stakeholders of the space community on space sustainability matters is through our support of the Space Security Index Report, which is now in its eighth year of publication. The executive summary of this free publication, which examines trends in space security and sustainability is available to delegates to COPUOS and distributed broadly throughout the world. The full report is available on line at [www.spacesecurity.org](http://www.spacesecurity.org) and in a limited print edition distributed to libraries and other interested institutions upon request. The findings of the latest Space Security Index report will be presented by Project Ploughshares, the Canadian non-governmental organization that manages production of the report, at this COPUOS meeting.

Secure World Foundation is also pleased to be co-organizing an “Improving Our Vision” workshop June 28-29 in Luxembourg along with our partners at the Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies and the commercial satellite operators SES, Inmarsat, and Intelsat. This fifth workshop in the series of international Space Situational Awareness (SSA) workshops we have co-sponsored will focus on policies to support and enhance SSA sharing and examine ways in which shared SSA data can be applied to enhance the safety, stability, and security of operations in space.

Secure World Foundation also pursues a program in fostering the development of sound space policy and law, consistent with the international treaties and agreements on outer space. In May 2011, Secure World Foundation was pleased to partner with the China Academy of Sciences in organizing a workshop on the topic of "Space Policies and Laws in Asia". This workshop brought together a number of well-informed regional and international experts from China, Europe, Japan, India, and the United States to examine the history, current state affairs and future of space policy in those countries and Europe and the role played by space cooperation at the national and regional level.

Later this year in September, Secure World Foundation and the Ifri Space Policy Program will hold a jointly organized conference in Brussels on “European Space Governance: the Outlook”. This one-day conference will provide a snapshot of the current governance situation in three panels. The first, on space governance after the Lisbon Treaty, will assess the overall policy and institutional consequences of the Treaty, thus providing analysis on the structural framework of European space governance. The second panel will look in more detail at governance issues of the Galileo and GMES programs. The last panel will be dedicated to the governance of security-related space programs, emphasizing both the role of specific institutions (European Defense Agency, European External Action Services) and the development of concrete programs (SSA,

MUSIS). Finally, a keynote speaker will address the current diplomatic activity around the adoption of the international Code of Conduct in space proposed by the European Union.

Secure World Foundation also has a limited effort focused on improving the governance of efforts to make better use of data acquired from space in support of human and environmental security. The advent of smart phones, tablet computers and GPS-linked cameras has ushered in a dramatic change in how environmental data collected by ordinary citizens can be collected, analyzed, and put to use for human benefit. These modern communication tools also make it possible for the public to participate in analyzing and distributing information from space based Earth observation systems. Recently, several organizations have sprung up to employ these technologies for broad public benefit in responding to natural disasters. For the past two years, Secure World Foundation has sponsored or co-sponsored several activities focused on revolutionizing the ways in which Earth observation from space can be linked with these new approaches and technologies.

Next month, Secure World Foundation is pleased to co-organize with UN SPIDER and the Government of Austria a workshop on "Space-based information for Crowdsourcing Mapping". Taking note of the need to connect these pioneering communities with the space industry and the disaster management community, UN-SPIDER is carrying out a one-year project aimed at identifying ways in which to ensure a closer cooperation among the three communities. The first step in this project is an Expert Meeting to be held in Vienna next month focused on building strategies for using crowdsourcing mapping to support civil protection and emergency management agencies in their effort to prepare for and respond to emergencies. It will also help crowdsourcing mapping organizations to understand the specific needs of the disaster management community.

During the Polish presidency of the European Union in the second half of the year, Secure World Foundation will participate in a seminar presenting and discussing optimal use of space applications in support of humanitarian efforts during large-scale crises. The seminar will combine discussions and a full-day simulation of humanitarian operations, with active involvement of all participants. The event will be organized in coordination with relevant activities of Civil Protection Mechanism of the European Union.

This seminar should be an opportunity for the meeting of two communities: international humanitarian organizations and providers of space applications. On the humanitarian side, several humanitarian NGOs will be present, together with some representatives of governmental civil protection entities.

Secure World Foundation's fourth focus area is the governance of response to the threat of a Near Earth Object on a collision course with Earth. The foundation has been very active in Action Team-14 and over the past year has co-hosted with the Association of Space Explorers two workshops in support of the work of AT-14.

In May, Secure World Foundation helped sponsor and organize the International Academy of Astronautics Planetary Defense Conference, held in Bucharest, Romania. This was the fourth in a series of conferences held since 2004 to discuss the threat of asteroids and comets to the Earth and potential responses. Nearly two hundred scientists, astronomers, students, and other international experts participated in the four-day conference. Secure World Foundation staff co-chaired panels at the conference focused on examining efforts to respond cooperatively to the threat that near Earth objects pose to Earth. Highlights and recommendations from the conference will be discussed in Action Team 14.

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In conclusion, Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples. It acts as a research body, convener and facilitator to advocate for international cooperation in solving the problems of space debris, orbital crowding and other manmade threats to the space environment. The Foundation fervently believes that the challenge of sustaining the space environment into the future must be met in a truly international, cooperative manner.

Secure World Foundation strongly 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 the space age evolves, the world community has a unique opportunity to safeguard the secure and sustainable use of the space environment. We look forward to supporting the Committee's efforts to achieve such a future.

Many thanks.

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