



Secure World Foundation
Exchange of Views Statement
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
June 2015

Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation expresses its appreciation for your leadership of this critically important Committee, and we continue to seek ways in which we can be helpful to you and the Committee in advancing the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, in the year since I last had the privilege of addressing this body, Gerard Brachet, a former chairman of this Committee, completed an extremely helpful term of service as a volunteer member of our Advisory Committee. Here in the presence of so many people who have known M. Brachet well, we wish to acknowledge his extraordinary service and his wise counsel as we have sought to play our role in facilitating important discussions of the issues central to the work of COPUOS. Not least among the things for which we are appreciative are his tireless efforts to integrate our Foundation into a useful role in support of this Committee's agenda and membership.

Our statements this year to this Committee's two subcommittees have detailed important examples of our supporting role in this regard, and a comprehensive review of our activities in the previous calendar year is included in our Annual Report. These documents have been distributed to all delegations through their boxes.

Today, I would like to focus my attention on Foundation activities in support of COPUOS that have occurred in just the last few months in the hope that they will illustrate not only our commitment to this Committee's program of work, but also our appreciation for the opportunity to partner with Committee members and fellow observers in important and effective projects.

In March we partnered with Wilton Park in the United Kingdom to conduct a workshop on connecting space with international security and stability. Our goal was to demonstrate the interconnectedness of peaceful uses of outer space with the security that arises from improving the human condition on Earth. Although some of the more military understandings of security interjected themselves in the discussion, we were at several points able to develop the broader themes of sustainable use of space and development that have been so important to the work of this Committee.

Similarly, in March, we held two other sessions that helped to ensure that the rule of law was deeply integrated into discussions of military aspects of space security:

- One held in Washington, DC was entitled "International Law and Military Activities in Space."
- The other held in Geneva, Switzerland, in cooperation with the UN Institute for Disarmament Information and Research, looked at current understandings of the concept of self-defense as it might apply to space.

I should note here, that it is exactly in challenging discussions such as these I have just mentioned that the privilege this Committee has accorded us as a permanent observer becomes extremely important in our work. In pursuit of cooperative solutions for space sustainability, we engage with many parts of the international space community. We believe that what we learn here at COPUOS greatly enriches our

contribution to discussions in other fora, and I take this opportunity to thank you for this important contribution to our work.

On matters quite closely related to this Committee's program of work, I am pleased to report that in addition to activities in the Middle East and Asia during the first three months of this year, we have engaged in three activities in Latin America, one in Africa, one in Europe, and one in North America in this calendar quarter.

The first was a Regional Workshop on the Long-term Sustainability of Space Activities held in San José, Costa Rica in early April. This was organized in collaboration with the Central American Association for Aeronautics and Space (ACAE) and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica. The workshop engaged representatives from 11 countries of the Group of Latin American Countries (GRULAC) members of COPUOS. The event brought together international experts and regional leaders to actively discuss shared priorities and concerns specific to the LTS effort and other relevant international initiatives, exchange information about plans and developments in space, and examine linkages between these discussions and broader sustainability efforts.

That same week in Mexico City, we supported the Group on Earth Observations working group charged with planning that organization's Ministerial conference scheduled for November 2015. As a member of that working group, I am pleased to say that members of COPUOS will see many area of shared interests and values in the emerging program of this important event.

This spring, we sponsored two workshops on Higher Resolution SRTM Data & Flood Modelling as a part of our ongoing efforts to assist disaster management practitioners in using satellite-derived information to respond more effectively to natural disasters. One, in cooperation with CRECTEALC (Regional Centre for Space Science Education for Latin America and the Caribbean) was held in Puebla, Mexico, while the other was organized with the help of the South African National Space Agency in Hartebeesthoek, South Africa. Focusing on the challenges of flood modelling, the workshops were implemented by the Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Sharing of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, with the financial and organizational support of a diverse group of local, regional, and international organizations – including UNOOSA.

In April, we sponsored a luncheon forum on disaster response and resilience at the Space Foundation's annual Space Symposium in Colorado, United States, and in May, continued our support of UN-SPIDER as a participant and co-sponsor of the United Nations/Germany International Conference on Earth Observation. This conference, which focused on "Global Solutions for the Challenges of Sustainable Development in Societies at Risk," enabled us to combine several important aspects of our work by linking earth observation for human and environmental security to disaster response and sustainable development objectives.

I am pleased to report that we continue to make progress on our effort to produce a Handbook for New Actors in Space. As reported to both subcommittees, we continue to seek counsel from international reviewers as we prepare this document, which we hope will be a useful tool as new entrants seek to comply with the current and emerging governance expectations that this Committee in particular has done so much to develop. Once completed early next year, as with all official Secure World Foundation publications, this handbook will be available free of charge in electronic form or single printed copies.

Another information resource that we feel helps to build capacity and understanding in the space sector for new entrants and experienced participants alike is our Fact Sheet program. Secure World Foundation regularly publishes short fact sheets on key issues for those interested in space policy. An example of this kind of publication is available on the distribution table and the complete collection of these documents can be accessed through the Resource Library on our website (www.swfound.org).

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates I would like to close my remarks by sharing a concern which I have heard expressed at many different events this year. There is a growing concern within civil society, especially that portion of it increasingly dependent on access to space-based data, telecommunications, and services, that their requirements need to be carefully considered in the ongoing decisions about allocation of radio frequency spectrum. Fears of radio frequency or electromagnetic interference from terrestrial services operating at frequencies close to those on which satellite operations depend are growing, and new fears that in-band interference may become more common are emerging. We are pleased to see that this Committee is addressing this issue as part of the draft guidelines being considered under the long-term sustainability agenda item. We hope that this Committee can find a way to contribute to addressing this issue that is complementary to work being done in other international fora.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, on behalf of Secure World Foundation thank you for the opportunity to share our perspectives and update this Committee on our activities in support of its program of work.

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