



SECURE WORLD FOUNDATION

58th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

April 2021

Statement under Agenda Item 3. *General Exchange of Views*

Madam Chair, the Secure World Foundation joins the rest of the delegations in welcoming you to your second year as Chair of this subcommittee. We look 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.

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 February 2020 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 to support human and environmental security on Earth.

SWF welcomes the consensus decision reached at the 62nd session of the Committee on the adoption of the preamble and 21 consensus LTS guidelines developed by this subcommittee. We believe that these guidelines represent an important step forward to preserve outer space as a stable and safe domain for peaceful exploration and use by all States. We encourage States to voluntarily report their

implementation successes and challenges as a way to promote wider implementation of the guidelines. Our staff continue to deliver presentations on the LTS guidelines at various governmental and non-governmental fora around the world as our contribution to raising awareness of this important work of the Committee. We also welcome the decision taken at the 62nd session of the Subcommittee to continue the work on LTS through the establishment of a new Working Group under a five-year mandate and we stand ready to support this new Working Group however we can.

In September 2020, Secure World Foundation organized and hosted the second *Summit for Space Sustainability*, a three-day, high-level event focused on developing solutions for space sustainability that was a resounding success. Like so many other organizations, SWF had to adapt its Summit format due to a global pandemic. However, the virtual platform allowed us to reach a wider audience than ever before. More than 500 people from all corners of the globe, including several colleagues attending this session, participated in the event to discuss the commercialization and globalization of space, space security, spectrum management, and promoting norms of responsible behavior in space. We are pleased to announce that the 2021 *Summit for Space Sustainability* will be held virtually from June 22-24, 2021, and invite all delegations to attend. More information is available at the website swfsummit.org.

SWF continues to engage in a number of collaborations with governmental and non-governmental organizations. One collaboration that is yielding excellent returns is with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where working on a web-seminar series entitled “[Serving Society with Space Data: Innovations in Satellite Applications for Humanitarian and Development Sectors of the SDGs](#)”. This project engages a multi-sector audience in discussions on how space technologies and geospatial applications contribute to better outcomes in critical fields around the world, such as energy, food

security, poverty, and governance. The seminar series included discussions on zero hunger, affordable and clean energy, and monitoring and evaluation.

We continue to distribute copies of our *Handbook for New Actors in Space*, which we unveiled four years ago at this meeting, and about which we continue to receive significant positive responses from the community. Last year, in partnership with the Mexican Space Agency, we developed a Spanish-language version of the *Handbook*, and this year both French and Chinese versions of the *Handbook* will be released. Electronic versions of all these editions will be available on the SWF website at swfound.org/handbook, and electronic versions in .pdf format are free for all to download.

SWF has also continued its role helping to lead the Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations or CONFERS, which is continuing to develop best practices and standards for commercial satellite servicing activities. In 2020, CONFERS published an updated version of its Recommended Design and Operating Practices and its members continued to provide inputs to the International Organization for Standardization's draft standard 24330 on satellite servicing. CONFERS currently has more than 40 members from 9 countries and continues to be open to new private sector members from around the world.

We have also continued our efforts to address orbital debris and improve space situational awareness (SSA) data sharing and collaboration. Last September, we once again partnered with the Maui Economic Development Board to hold the eighth annual Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance (AMOS) Dialogue as a virtual event in conjunction with the AMOS Conference. Last year's Dialogue discussed data fusion and other science and technology priorities for improving SSA and space traffic management and how they can be addressed through policy and international collaboration. SWF also co-organized

the AMOS Policy Forum, held in conjunction with the rest of the AMOS conference, which included a discussion on the evolution of industry best practices for space sustainability.

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. Our 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 kind attention.

Secure World Foundation
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