



## SECURE WORLD FOUNDATION

### Statement under Agenda Item 5. *Information on the Activities of International Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations Relating to Space Law*

Sixty-third Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the  
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

*April 2024*

Mister Chairman, distinguished delegates, and observers, on behalf of Secure World Foundation, I appreciate this opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since March 2023 under this agenda item. The Secure World Foundation is a Non-governmental Organization granted permanent observer status at this Committee in 2008, and special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2010. 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.

In June 2023, SWF organized our fifth *Summit for Space Sustainability* in New York City. The more than 500 in-person and virtual participants welcomed a keynote from Mr. Guy Ryder, the UN Undersecretary-General for Policy, who linked space sustainability to the broader set of global challenges. The *Summit for Space Sustainability* was a forum for substantive discussions and valuable networking opportunities.

We are pleased to announce that the sixth *Summit for Space Sustainability* will be held as an in-person event this July 11–12 in Tokyo, Japan. This year's Summit is co-hosted with the National Space Policy Secretariat of the Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government, and in coordination with the SPACETIDE 2024 conference, which will take place in Tokyo from July 8–10. We cordially invite all delegations to attend. More information is available at the website [swfsummit.org](https://swfsummit.org).

In April 2023, SWF completed its direct role in supporting the Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS), which focuses on developing best practices and standards for commercial satellite servicing activities. We successfully transitioned CONFERS from a DARPA-funded startup to a completely independent private sector entity, where it has continued to grow and expand its work to develop global standards and best practices for satellite servicing.

In March 2023, we saw the successful completion of our first two Space Sustainability Research Fellows, who published new research on two key areas related to space governance. Ms. Claire Oto focused her research on polycentric decision-making in global space governance, and Mr. Daniel Patton looked at the various ways of thinking about space as a “global commons”.

In December 2023, our second round of research fellows continued research on fundamental questions and concepts in space sustainability. Mr. Benjamin Silverstein researched verification aspects of ASAT prohibitions, while Ms. Olga Volynskaya researched the use of unilateral commitments and/or non-binding multilateral instruments in the formation of customary international law. All reports, including executive summaries, are available on the SWF website.

In 2023, SWF was proud to be a contributor, along with the Governments of Belgium, Chile, France, Italy, Japan, and Luxembourg, as well as the Kyushu Institute of Technology, and the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, of UNOOSA’s *Space Law for New Space Actors Legal Advisory Project*. The Legal Advisory Project, which also received in-kind contributions from DLR and the ECSL, offers UN Member States tailored capacity-building to facilitate their drafting of national space legislation and/or national space policies in line with international space law, and promoting the long-term sustainability of space activities. Such capacity-building will support new and emerging spacefaring nations to conduct space activities in a responsible and sustainable manner. We look forward to future advisory service activities in furtherance of this project.

Finally, we would like to remind all delegations that we recently published our newest publication, the *COPUOS Briefing Book*, at last year's plenary session. The *COPUOS Briefing Book* is a comprehensive guide on the history and current work of both COPUOS and its two subcommittees, including leadership, agendas, working methods, and deliverables. It is available in electronic format on our website, and I also have a limited number of hardcopies available with me this week.

Mister Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Secure World Foundation looks forward to continuing to support the Committee's efforts to achieve and sustain the continued peaceful uses of outer space. Thank you for your kind attention.



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