

On behalf of our executive director, Ray Williamson, and the rest of the Secure World Foundation, I would like to thank Tomasso and the other organizers for all their hard work and effort in putting together what has been an important and successful event.

It is challenging to give a summary of a multi-track event featuring such a variety of experts and papers, so instead I will focus on a few key themes. Everyone here understands the importance of this current transition from the Cold War era where space was dominated by State-sponsored activities, mainly for the purpose of national security, to a new era where a diversity of actors are engaging in a growing array of activities in space.

Humanity must examine the fundamental way in which we organize and plan space activities to meet the demands of this new era, and this conference represents a milestone in progress towards that change.

The Secure World Foundation is dedicated to promoting the secure and sustainable use of outer space for the benefit of the Earth and all its peoples for the foreseeable future. This mission statement has two driving elements – ensuring that space remains useful and accessible, and enabling the beneficial use of space by all peoples.

Towards this vision, Secure World sees three broad themes that lay the foundation for future space activities: safety, security, and sustainability. Each is vitally important, yet cannot exist without the other two.

Safety and sustainability, as has been discussed here this week and at previous IAASS conferences, are paramount for the continued human activities in space.

But security, with its many definitions, cannot be forgotten in our drive for safety and sustainability. For it is still security that drives much of our activities in space, and it is insecurity which breeds the misunderstanding, belligerence and conflict that can undermine safety and destroy sustainability.

The Secure World Foundation's challenge to the authors, presenters and leaders here today is to keep these three themes at the forefront of your thinking and discussion. And when you leave, that you take these themes with you, much as they might want to stay behind in such an amazing venue. For if we are to take full advantage of all the amazing benefits that space has to offer, we must do it with full knowledge and appreciation of safety, security, and sustainability.

Thank you.