



***Exchange of Views Statement,
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
February 2012***

Mr. Chairman, we of Secure World Foundation extend our congratulations on your steadfast and thoughtful guidance of this subcommittee. Secure World Foundation looks forward to supporting you and the work of the subcommittee 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 STSC. 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, SWF co-organized the fifth Improving Our Vision Workshop focused on Space Situational Awareness (SSA). It was hosted by SES at their headquarters in Luxembourg. Besides SWF, other co-sponsors included Intelsat and the Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies. Participants representing industry, government, and NGO perspectives discussed the current status of global SSA capabilities and how they can be improved through more collaboration and sharing. The event allowed for interesting conversations to take place and had a strong commercial perspective, which is often lacking in these discussions.

SWF has continued to partner with UN SPIDER. We co-organized two events in 2011, one in Vienna and one in Geneva focusing on Crowdsourcing Mapping for Preparedness and Emergency Response. Those Expert Meetings brought together roughly 80 experts each from the crowdsourcing communities, space agencies, disaster management agencies, international organizations, and NGOs. The meeting was part of a project conducted by UN-SPIDER and was used to gather information from experts on how to bridge the gap between the crowdsourcing communities that generate space-based and geo-spatial information and the disaster management agencies.

In August SWF co-sponsored with the Association of Space Explorers a NEO Workshop in Support of UN COPUOS AT-14, Pasadena, CA. It included representatives from five space

agencies and focused on developing the Terms of Reference for a Mission Planning and Operations Group and providing further input to the AT-14 report for review in the COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS.

In addition, in November, SWF organized the NEOs: Media/Risk Communications Working Group meeting in Boulder, Colorado. The Working Group of nearly 40 scientists, reporters, risk management specialists and SWF staff focused on assisting the UN Action Team-14 (AT-14) on NEOs in its deliberations, specific to establishing an Information, Analysis and Warning Network (IAWN). A report of the findings from the Working Group will be presented to AT-14 and this Subcommittee later at this meeting.

Once again our Brussels office co-organized our authoritative annual conference with the French think tank Ifri. This year's event focused on Europe's governance of space activities in the framework of the Lisbon Treaty. The event was very well attended by EU institutions and member states.

As every year SWF actively participated in the International Astronautical Congress and supported the Space Generation Congress as well as the International Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, which all took place in Cape Town, South Africa. In addition SWF co-sponsored the UN - IAF Workshop on Space for Human and Environmental Security.

In October SWF co-organized the 2011 Beijing Space Sustainability Conference. This is a 3-year partnership with faculty and graduate students at Beihang University in Beijing to foster Chinese technical expertise at the University level in the areas of active debris removal and space traffic management for small satellites. In 2011, the conference focused on issues related to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, including orbital debris mitigation and removal, national implementation of debris mitigation guidelines and regulations, tools to enhance space situational awareness data sharing, and space weather.

We are happy to report that in April SWF will support and co-organize the "Space Policy, Cyber Health, New Generation Satellite Services and Broad Band: Towards Ubiquitous Access for All in the Americas" workshop, which will be held at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (SRE) of Mexico. The Forum is organized by the Ministry in its role as Pro Tempore Secretariat of the VI Space Conference of the Americas, with support from SWF in cooperation with the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (RECTEALC), affiliated to the United Nations.

Each year, the Washington, DC and Brussels offices convene and facilitate meetings that are timely, germane and important within the space policy community.

Our Washington office organized:

- Asia Space Policy Workshop follow-up panel on China/Space
- George Washington University Capstone Presentations, "Analyzing the Development Paths of Emerging Space Nations: Opportunities or Challenges for Space Sustainability?"
- Mainstream Media project on China's space capabilities

- Russian Space Panel
- China's Space Program Panel

Our Brussels office organized:

- Brussels Space Policy Round Table – Space Security Index Launch in Europe
- Brussels Space Policy Round Table – Galileo: Current Status and Future Opportunities

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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.

In its work the Secure World Foundation has not overlooked the importance of advancing the Millennium Development Goals through space activity. We have regularly included issues of broader access to space and capacity building in our programming and have directly sponsored students from emerging space states in their quest to improve their formal education in the field.

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

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