



Secure World Foundation

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
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Agenda Item 4. *General exchange of views*

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Mr. Chairman, the Secure World Foundation congratulates you on your election as Chairperson of this committee, and we extend our appreciation to you and to the Office of Outer Space Affairs for your competent and professional management of this Committee during the current global pandemic.

Mr. Chairman, permit me to briefly highlight some of our activities during the past year. Despite the global pandemic forcing significant alterations to in-person events, the Secure World Foundation has continued to act as a convener of stakeholders, and as a trusted partner in space sustainability discussions.

This June we hosted the third annual *Summit for Space Sustainability* with more than 550 participants from around the world. This year's summit hosted conversations on various critical issues, including the relationship between climate change and space; large satellite constellations; fostering active debris removal activities; competition in space and how to encourage collaborative relationships between nations; and the emergence of various national space military organizations. Transcripts and video recordings of this year's Summit are at <https://swfsummit.org>. SWF also took the opportunity to reach out to young professionals to facilitate mentoring and networking, two aspects of career development which COVID hampered considerably.

SWF is partnering with the University of Colorado Boulder to support the Space Sustainability Initiative, a cross-disciplinary programme aimed at developing technically sound business models for tomorrow's space activities. We have also partnered with the

Caelus Foundation and the Chinese Society of Astronautics to hold an ongoing dialogue that shares perspectives on space commercialization between American and Chinese stakeholders. Our most recent dialogue was in April 2021, and subsequent events are planned for later this year.

SWF has also continued its role helping to facilitate the work of 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. CONFERS currently has more than 50 members and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) continues to work on the first draft standard on satellite servicing.

We are also working with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology 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 discusses how space technologies and geospatial applications contribute to better outcomes in critical fields such as energy, food security, poverty, and governance.

There are significant issues of geopolitical importance regarding the governance framework for the Moon. To that end, we have partnered with the Arizona State University Interplanetary Initiative, the MIT Media Lab Space Exploration Initiative, the Open Lunar Foundation, and For All Moonkind to host The Moon Dialogs. Monthly online salons have focused on space mineral resources, safety zones, lunar dust, and cultural contexts of lunar exploration and development.

SWF is proud to be a funding partner, along with the Governments of Belgium, Chile, Luxembourg, and Japan, of OOSA’s Space Law for New Space Actors Legal Advisory Project. The Legal Advisory Project 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 in promoting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

To assist new entrants in the space field, in 2016 we published our *Handbook for New Actors in Space*. At this session of COPUOS, I am pleased to inform you that the Chinese language translation is being published by the China Astronautic Publishing House, based in Beijing. We also expect to launch a French language edition of the Handbook in the near future. All of these resources will be made freely available on our website.

Global space activity continues to increase and diversify with each passing year. Very often, new ideas, new concepts, and new activities in space are originating in the private sector, which is frequently moving faster than traditional State actors. For these reasons, international discussions on the use and governance of outer space must take into consideration the growing importance and concerns of the private sector. As the LTS 2.0 Working Group, as well as the Working Group on space resources, continues their efforts, the involvement and contribution of the private sector will be critical in ensuring pragmatic and successful deliberations.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, the Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of COPUOS, and we look forward to continuing to support this Committee's efforts under your able leadership. Thank you for your kind attention.

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<http://www.swfound.org>