

Different Institutional Models For NEO Response

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- The International Climate
- Key Concerns in Institutional Governance
- A Brief Analysis of the ASE Proposal
- Conclusions

- Problem definition
- Accurate knowledge base of Potentially Hazardous Objects (PHOs)
- Analysis of key technical requirements
- Decision-taking process on course of action to be taken

- Organisational Proliferation
 - We are not currently in an international climate , politically and economically for the creation of new institutions
 - Lightweight, Committee-based preferred
- Legitimacy
 - How can organizational legitimacy be promoted on the NEO issue?
 - Especially given the possible nuclear issues potentiall involved in NEO mitigation
 - In a crisis the mechanism needs to:
 - Be trusted as a impartial mechanism
 - There needs to be trust in the decision-making process that ALL voices are adequately heard

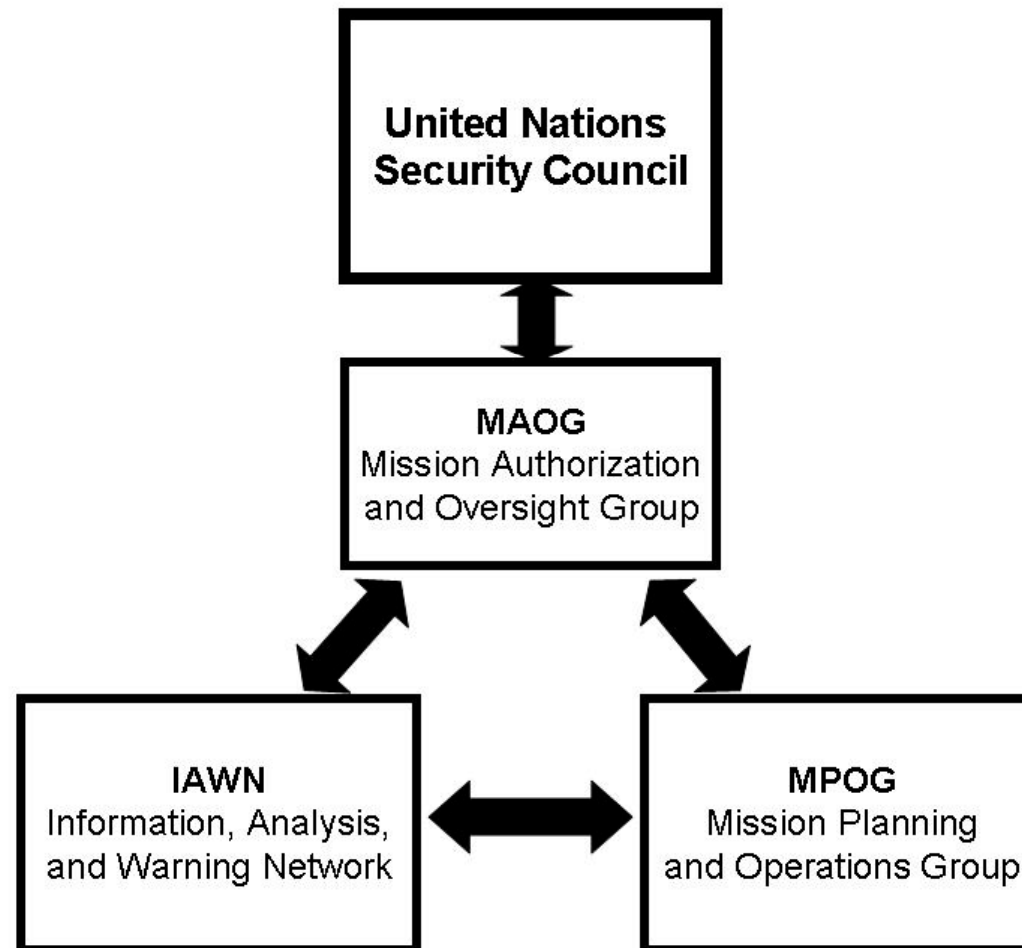
- A serious NEO strike has the capacity to affect many if not all nations on Earth
 - Is consensus the best way forward?
 - Concerns as to political considerations vs. science
 - The question of non-allied States
 - How do we incorporate them effectively?
 - Majority rule?
 - Need for an applied decision-making process focusing on:
 - Sound threat assessment and mitigation assessment
 - BUY-IN from international community

- Information campaign needed to **BRAND** NEO identification and deflection issues as a **SCIENTIFIC** issue
- Need to create a climate of trust
- KEY ISSUE:
 - If we are in a crisis situation, the people who will suddenly be concerned on this issue will not be technical experts but will be POLITICIANS.
 - The knee-jerk reaction effect

NECESSITY FOR INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AT
LEGISLATURE AND ADMINISTRATION LEVEL

- Key question:
 - What if a mitigation effort goes awry?
 - It misses Sao Paulo but lands on Shanghai
 - What are the dispute resolution mechanisms?
 - International Agreement on indemnification on collective action
 - Risk of conflict
 - Especially relevant for the United States as, as one of the more technically advanced States, most likely to be heavily involved in the deflection effort
 - Problem complicated by non-allied States
 - If a key State is on a collision path, do we run the risk of unilateral action being taken?

- NEO issue unusual as it is of fundamentally existential and scientific concern until it, if a crisis situation arises, very quickly becomes a central question of national security.
 - How does one create the organizational flexibility to encompass research and information provision, with difficult national security decisions on the other.
- In the UN system, no one body is fully appropriate to fulfill both roles
 - COPUOS
 - Consensus-based
 - UN Security Council
 - Key question – will all States under threat have a voice?
- Possibility of independent Charter organisation?



- Information, Analysis and Warning Network
 - Operator of a global system of ground and/or space-based telescopes to detect and track potentially hazardous NEOs
 - Should utilise existing or new research institutions to analyse NEO orbits to identify potential impacts
- KEY CONCERNS
 - Belief in data
 - Is the data seen as suitably reliable and international?

- Mission Planning and Operations Group
 - Utilising the expertise of space-faring nations, outline options for NEO deflection missions
 - In response to a specific warning, the group should prepare for a deflection campaign
- Key Concerns
 - How are we defining space-faring nations?
 - Operators/owners/launch capabilities?
 - Iran is a space-faring nation
 - » Would they be given a place on MPOG?

- Mission Authorization and Oversight Group
 - Develop the policies and guidelines that represent the international will to respond to the global impact hazard
- Key Concerns
 - Consensus?
 - Timeframe?
 - Nuclear Question?
 - Venezuela for example?
 - COPUOS only 69 Member States
 - UN General Assembly?
 - Independent body?
 - Membership questions?

- A successful mechanism will most probably be:
 - Low cost
 - As apolitical as is realistic
 - Output of a clearly defined initial problem to present to the international community
 - Not fully consensus-based

- How do you make this issue relevant is key:
 - Very good international basis for cooperation
 - Given the changes in the US climate:
 - Push for support on NEO governance and research as an international outreach measure
 - Support to developing space nations
 - Key - as apolitical as possible
 - How to support the NEO issue in relation to other key issues in the developing world?
 - A way in which developing space nations can play a role in space science and inter national space policy

Many Thanks

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