



Secure World Foundation

Agenda Item 4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I appreciate this opportunity to present an update on the Foundation's work since the last session of the Legal Subcommittee on work we have conducted in support of the aims of the Legal Subcommittee, including capacity building in space law and governance.

As in previous years, the Secure World Foundation participated in the 2016 International Astronautical Congress (IAC), and supported both the Space Generation Congress and the World Finals of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, all of which also took place in September in Guadalajara, Mexico. The Foundation helped facilitate a discussion among students and young professionals at the Space Generation Congress on their input to the UNISPACE+50 planning process, and provided expertise on the spectrum allocation process, and on the topic of small satellites to several of the team projects. We also once again awarded travel scholarships for young professionals to present research papers on space sustainability and law and policy topics at the IAC. The 2016 winners were from Indonesia, Italy, Mauritius, Nigeria, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In October of last year, the Foundation partnered with the U.S. Department of State to hold an event recognizing the accomplishments of COPUOS in publishing the first set of consensus long-term sustainability guidelines. The event brought together top U.S. and international space policy experts from governments, industry, and academia to discuss the current state of the



discussions on long-term sustainability guidelines, national implementation strategies, and next steps for the international community to ensure that space is sustainable over the long-term.

In November, the Foundation was honored to partner with the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the United Arab Emirates in helping organize the first United Nations High-Level Forum. The focus of the Forum was the role of space as a driver for sustainable socio-economic development and helping prepare for the UNISPACE +50 Conference in June 2018. SWF staff led breakout session discussions on measuring the value of space benefits, the role of space in the sustainable development goals, on small satellites, and on space sustainability.

A close look at the Vienna Declaration issued at the conclusion of UNISPACE III in 1999 reveals how deeply it has inspired the ensuing work of COPUOS and informed the Committee's agenda. In the years since that historic document was created, much has changed in the space sector and many exciting, but challenging, capabilities have emerged. We at Secure World Foundation strongly believe that UNISPACE +50 will have at least as strong an influence on the future work of this Committee as did UNISPACE III. It will address both new issues themselves and the rapid pace with which still newer issues will continue to emerge. In support of preparing for the best possible outcome of UNISPACE +50, Secure World Foundation intends to continue active support of the Office of Outer Space Affairs and the High Level Forum's preparatory work.

In November of 2017, the Foundation partnered with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) to co-organize a tabletop exercise (TTX) on Space Crisis Dynamics and Uncertainty



in Washington, DC. The goal of this Table Top Exercise was to raise awareness about the risks of escalation and crisis stability, and to identify gaps or shortcomings in existing national and international policies, strategies, communication channels, and political and legal mechanisms. The output of the exercise will be used to inform future work on developing new mechanisms to enhance space security and reduce the risk of a crisis involving space capabilities escalating to armed conflict.

On January 27th of 2017, Secure World organized, sponsored, and helped execute a lunchtime event on the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Outer Space Treaty with an afternoon event at Georgetown Law School in Washington, DC. At this event, co-organized by the American Society of International Law, professors and practitioners of space law and policy discussed the history and development of the Outer Space Treaty, including approaches to interpretation, analogous regimes in international law, and subsequent work within COPUOS and the current state of international space governance. Our website www.swfound.org has an [event page](#) with materials, [transcript](#), [audio recording](#), and a [video recording](#) of the event. We intend to remain engaged in celebrating and reflecting on the fiftieth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty this year, and welcome the draft declaration circulated by the Secretariat contained in A/AC.105/C.2/L.300.

Throughout last year and this year, SWF has supported and participated in the ongoing activities of the Hague Space Resources Governance Working Group. The Working Group is a multi-disciplinary international group comprised of governmental, academic and private sector representatives. It is working through 2016 and 2017 to develop a set of proposed building



blocks which might serve as the basis for discussion of a multilateral instrument or set of principles to enable the development of space resources through an effective governance regime.

In conclusion, the Secure World Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of outer space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples. The Foundation fervently believes that the challenge of sustaining the space environment into the future must be met in a truly international and cooperative manner. 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 will our continued ability to use space capabilities to help solve our most pressing challenges here on Earth.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, the Secure World Foundation strongly supports the work of COPUOS in this regard, and looks forward to continuing to support the Committee's efforts to achieve such a future. Thank you for your time and attention.

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