

Briefing Series in support of United Nations processes on outer space security

UNIDIR SPACE SECURITY WORKSHOP: A PRIMER FOR DELEGATES

Conference Room 11, UNHQ, New York
30 January 2019

The prevention of conflict and arms competition in outer space is receiving much more attention as the world becomes increasingly reliant on space-based services, whilst at the same time, new counterspace capabilities threaten the stability needed for such activities and security more broadly. The UN Secretary General stressed the importance of developing tools like transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) to address this situation in his Disarmament Agenda, noting:

“The United Nations remains uniquely placed to facilitate international cooperation and mutual restraint as the only sustainable solution to ensuring peace and security in outer space.”

To this end, there are three UN initiatives related to space security. The UN Disarmament Commission has taken up the issue of practical implementation of TCBMs with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space for the 2018-2020 cycle. The General Assembly has established a group of governmental experts to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. And the Conference on Disarmament recently held its most thorough discussion on this matter in more than a decade.

In this context, the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) invites you to attend a Space Security Workshop that will illustrate the global implications of space security challenges, as well as the legal framework for space activities. This Workshop will feature two panels with presentations from international space law and policy experts, as well as an opportunity for interaction with delegations. In this way, UNIDIR seeks to deepen an understanding of space security challenges and enhance the UNDC’s dialogue on TCBMs.

- **Panel 1: Outer Space and Security (10h – 12h)**
 - **Space Security: a socio-economic overview**
 - **Kazuto Suzuki, Professor of Public Policy, Hokkaido University**
 - **The Physics of Space Security**
 - **Laura Grego, Senior Scientist for the Global Security Program, Union of Concerned Scientists**
- **Panel 2: The Outer Space Governance Framework (14h – 16h)**
 - **Existing Laws and Policies**
 - **Jessica West, Programme officer, Project Ploughshares**
 - **Current UN Initiatives**
 - **Daniel Porras, Space Security Fellow, UNIDIR**

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