Supporting Diplomacy: Clearing the Path for Dialogue

Conference Room XXV | Palais des Nations
28 and 29 May 2019

Conference organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in collaboration with the Secure World Foundation, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique (with funding from the EU) and The Simons Foundation Canada. Support from UNIDIR’s core funders provides the foundation for all of the Institute's activities. This event was organized with support from the Governments of Brazil, the People’s Republic of China, The Holy See and the Russian Federation.

Tuesday 28 May 2019

13:30-14:00  Coffee and Refreshments

14:00-14:20  Opening Remarks
- Dr Peter Martinez, Director, Secure World Foundation
- Dr Xavier Pasco, Director, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique

14:20-16:00  Panel 1. Taking Stock

With multiple UN processes meeting, cooperation and coordination among groups will be important to maximize efforts. This panel will take stock of developments over the previous year in UN fora.

Moderator  Dr. Renata Dwan, Director, UNIDIR

Panel  Conference on Disarmament
Amb Li Song, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China to the UN in Geneva

UN Disarmament Commission Working Group II
Amb Jeroen Cooreman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN

Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space
Amb Guilherme Patriota, Special Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament

General Assembly and First Committee
Mr Andrey Belousov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN in Geneva

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Dr Natália Archinard, Head of the Swiss Delegation to UNCOPUOS, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland
16:00-16:15  Tea and Coffee Break

16:15-17:45  Panel 2. What is a ‘Space Force’?
The announcement of a US Space Force made headlines, but it is not the first time a military has established specialised units for space operations. Visiting experts will explore the reasons and functions behind a dedicated military body to space operations.

Moderator  Dr John Borrie, Research Coordinator & Programme Lead – WMD & Other Strategic Weapons, UNIDIR

Panel  Mr Doug Loverro, former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense on Space Policy

Dr Rajeswari Piali Rajagopalan, Distinguished Fellow, Observer Researcher Foundation

Dr Jessica West, Program Officer, Project Ploughshares

19:30-21:30  Special film screening
UNIDIR, in cooperation with CineONU, is organising a special film screening to explore the wider societal implications of international cooperation in space. This screening will feature two short films, followed by a panel of special guest speakers.

Where  Empire Cinema, Rue de Carouge 72-74, 1205 Genève

When  Tuesday 28 May from 19:30

Films  The Overview Effect
A Beautiful Planet

Moderator  Ms Jeanne Meserve, Former Anchor and Correspondent, CNN & ABC News

Panel  Mr Jean-Francois Clervoy, Former ESA Astronaut

Dr Renata Dwan, Director, UNIDIR

Mr Niklas Hedman, Chief of Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section, UN Office for Outer Space Affairs
Wednesday 29 May 2019

08:30-9:00 Coffee and Refreshments

09:00-10:30 Panel 3. Emerging Rocket & Missile Dual Use Challenges
As new countries acquire sophisticated launch capabilities, exercising their freedom of access to space, there is a constant threat of misperception. This is particularly true as rockets get smaller and can be deployed much faster by private actors. This roundtable discussion will focus on current trends in rocket/missile technology and its impacts on global security. It will also examine how voluntary mechanisms, like The Hague Code of Conduct, can strengthen global security.

Moderator Dr Xavier Pasco, Director, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique

Panel
Amb Anne Sofie Nilsson, Swedish Ambassador for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
Ms Isabelle Sourbes, Research Director, Centre national de la recherche scientifique
Mr Tal Inbar, Head of the Space Research Center, Fisher Institute for Air & Space Strategic Studies

10:30-10:45 Tea and Coffee Break

10:45-12:15 Panel 4. On-orbit Proximity Operations: Friend or Foe?
Numerous countries and actors are seeking on-orbit vehicles for satellite life extension operations and debris removal, yet this technology also could raise suspicions about the weaponisation of space. This panel will examine on-orbit service vehicles and how to prevent this technology from disrupting space security.

Moderator Amb (ret) Michael Biontino, Advisor

Panel
Prof Guglielmo Aglietti, Surrey Space Centre Director, University of Surrey
Ms Victoria Samson, Washington-Office Director, Secure World Foundation
Ms Alexandra Stickings, Research Fellow for Space Policy and Security within the Military Sciences, Royal United Services Institute
Mr Daniel Porras, Space Security Fellow, UNIDIR

12:15-12:45 Buffet Luncheon

12:45-14:00 Special Lunchtime Event: Shaping Perceptions of Space Security
UNIDIR will host a special discussion on how journalists portray space security challenges and how public opinion can generate momentum towards greater space security measures.

Moderator Mr Torsten Kriening, Editor, SpaceWatchGlobal
Speaker Ms Jeanne Meserve, Former Anchor and Correspondent, CNN & ABC News
14:30-16:00  **Panel 5. Gathering Evidence in Orbit**
Experts will have a technical discussion on the feasibility of gathering evidence for PAROS-related space activities. In particular, they will examine what new technologies can reveal about space activities, what monitoring strategies might these technologies enable and how such capabilities can be reflected in future space security instruments.

**Moderator**  Ms Vanessa Wood, *Counsellor Disarmament, Australian Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament*

**Panel**  Dr Douglas Hendrix, *CEO, ExoAnalytic Solutions*
Col (ret) André Dupuis, *President, Space Strategies Consulting Ltd.*
Dr Moriba Jah, *Associate Professor of the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics, University of Texas at Austin*
Mr Stewart Bain, *CEO, NorthStar Earth & Space Inc.*

16:00-16:15  **Tea and Coffee Break**

16:15-17:45  **Panel 6. Next Steps for Multilateral Dialogue**
With several UN processes reaching the end of their mandates, new steps will be needed to keep moving towards stability and security in space. This roundtable discussion will seek to identify viable options to move multilateral dialogues forward.

**Moderator**  Mr Niklas Hedman, *Chief of Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section, UN Office for Outer Space Affairs*

**Panel**  Dr Renata Dwan, *Director, UNIDIR*
Dr Peter Martinez, *Director, Secure World Foundation*
Amb (ret) Paul Meyer, *Senior Fellow, The Simons Foundation Canada*
Dr Xavier Pasco, *Director, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique*

17:45-18:00  **Closing Session**

18:00-20:00  **Opening Reception – A Peaceful Place or so it Looks from Space**
Join us for the opening reception of a multimedia art exhibit by the award-winning Swiss Photographer Marco Grob. The exhibit will feature pieces from his series *Space Flight and A Year in Space*, including portraits and short films. Refreshments will be served.

**Where**  Salle des Pas Perdu | Palais des Nations

**When**  18:00