

June 30, 2009

SWF Helps Organize UNIDIR Conference

Secure World Foundation (SWF) worked closely with the [United Nations Institute of Disarmament Research \(UNIDIR\)](#) to co-organize and participate in a conference during called "[Space Security 2009: Moving Toward a Safer Space Environment.](#)" UNIDIR is an autonomous organization within the [United Nations](#) that conducts research on disarmament issues across the global, regional and human security domains. It serves as a "bridge" between UN Member States and the disarmament research community and directly supports the UN [Conference on Disarmament \(CD\)](#), the body dedicated to international disarmament negotiations.



UNIDIR Director Theresa Hitches (left) meets with Dr Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in early 2009. Photo courtesy ITU.

The UNIDIR conference, held from June 15-16, 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, represented a significant contribution to space security, according to SWF Legal and Policy Advisor [Ben Baseley-Walker](#). The event provided a forum that discussed space security issues in a new light, he added, deliberations that are relevant to the work of the Geneva disarmament community with emphasis on cross cutting issues that affect all space players: civil, military or commercial. Baseley-Walker worked closely with UNIDIR Director Theresa Hitchens to pick speakers and develop the agenda for the conference.

"SWF was pleased to participate actively in this important conference and to assist in clarifying the crucial decisions the world faces in tackling the complex issues of limiting weapons in space," explained [Dr. Ray Williamson](#), SWF's Executive Director. "Compared to 2008, I encountered an entirely new and hopeful sense of optimism among the delegates of the CD now that they have agreed on a program of work," Williamson said.

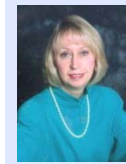
Highlights of the conference included a presentation by Gérard Brachet on the work he is doing to develop a set of "best practices" for the conduct of activities in outer space. Brachet, a member of SWF's [Advisory Committee](#), is founder and consultant with Sic Itur, an aerospace consulting firm. Richard Dalbello of Intelsat, also a member of SWF's Advisory Committee, gave a talk on the need for a space situational awareness data center, a clearinghouse of standardized data that would be used by satellite owner-operators to ensure safe on-orbit operations. There were also presentations on a potential ban on debris-causing kinetic ASATs and an analysis of verification methods for space arms control.

The UNIDIR conference was considered a great success, and helped provide the CD with key information on the orbital environment and current status of international space security efforts. It also represented an excellent opportunity for SWF to engage with diplomats, ambassadors and experts on a variety of issues related to space security. Baseley-Walker and Space Policy Consultant [Agnieszka Lukaszczyk](#) also attended the event, each reporting that it provided them with new ideas on future projects between SWF and UNIDIR.

SWF Contributes to Workshop in Paris, France

SWF Executive Director Dr. Ray Williamson and Space Policy Consultant Agnieszka Lukaszczyk participated in a workshop at [L'Institut Français des Relations Internationales \(IFRI\)](#) in Paris, France from June 18-19. The workshop, co-sponsored by SWF, focused on the space code of conduct advanced by the

News Bits



► SWF Advisory Committee member [Joan Johnson-Freese](#), Professor and Chair of the Department of National Security

Studies at the Naval War College, has a new book just out: *Heavenly Ambitions America's Quest to Dominate Space*. In *Heavenly Ambitions*, Johnson-Freese draws from a myriad of sources to argue that the United States is on the wrong path: first, by politicizing the question of space threats and, second, by continuing to believe that military domination in space is the only way to protect U.S. interests in space.

In her new [University of Pennsylvania Press](#) book, Johnson-Freese characterizes space as a frontier where nations cooperate, and military activity is circumscribed by arms control treaties that would allow no one nation to dominate - just as no one nation's military dominates the world's oceans. This is in the world's interest and, most important, in the U.S. national interest, she concludes.

For more information on her new book, go [here](#).



► SWF Executive Director [Dr. Ray Williamson](#) was profiled in the June 22 edition of [Space News](#) on page 22. Space News Editor Warren Ferster conducted the interview and asked Dr. Williamson a variety of questions related to space law, including how the international community is dealing with the threat of space



Attendees to the IFRI workshop gather for a group photograph. SWF Executive Director Dr. Ray Williamson and Space Policy Consultant Agnieszka Lukaszczyk are among them. **Photo courtesy Marcel Dickow.**

[European Union \(EU\)](#), space situational awareness and the possibility of a ban on anti-satellite weapons. Dr. Williamson and Ms. Lukaszczyk each chaired a session.

Dr. Williamson welcomed the attendees and moderated a panel on the draft Code of Conduct on Outer Space Activities introduced by the EU. Among those on the panel were Petr Lala, an expert on international cooperation in space with the [Czech Space Office](#); Victor Vasiliev, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Office in Geneva, who discussed transparency and confidence-building measures in space; and Gérard Brachet, who presented on how a set of “best practices” might interact with the EU code.

Laurence Nardon moderated a panel on “Additional Proposals for Space Security”, which included Teng Jiaqun, Deputy Secretary General, China Arms Control and Disarmament Association; Sam Black, Research Associate, [The Henry L. Stimson Center](#); and Phillip Baines, Deputy Director, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Division, [Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade](#), Canada. Teng presented on the Chinese space security perspective, Black focused on the need for a kinetic anti-satellite ban in the form of a treaty, and Baines discussed Canada’s recent space security intervention within the Conference on Disarmament.

Concluding the first day of the workshop, Dr. Williamson moderated a panel called “How do the different proposals relate?” Frans von der Dunk, Professor of Space Law, [Space and Telecommunications Law Program](#) at the [University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Law](#) provided a legal perspective, and Theresa Hitchens, UNIDIR Director, provided an international perspective.

On the second day, Ambassador [Ciro Arevalo](#), Chairman of the UN [Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space \(COPUOS\)](#), provided an introductory presentation on the June 2009 COPUOS Session. Following his talk was the final session of the workshop, entitled: “Achieving better space monitoring now,” moderated by Ms. Lukaszczyk. Panel members included Dr. Williamson, who presented a synthesis of current efforts to monitor space and Dick Bueneke, Deputy Director of Space Policy, Office of Missile Defense and Space Policy at the [U.S. State Department](#), who opened the floor for discussion.

Secure World Foundation: Active Role in United Nations Deliberations on Peaceful Uses of Space

COPUOS has ended its deliberations during its 52nd session which was held from June 3-12, 2009 in Vienna, Austria. This UN committee is the primary international venue for debate and action on space governance.

As a non-governmental organization (NGO), SWF attained active Permanent Observer status within COPUOS. This standing permits the organization to further its objectives dedicated to maintaining the secure and sustainable use of space for the benefit of Earth and all its peoples.

“The COPUOS meeting helped SWF to firm up its agenda for 2010 related to Near Earth Objects, human security and space security. All of these items are high on the agenda of COPUOS,” said SWF’s Dr. Ray Williamson.

[Near Earth Objects](#) (NEOs) are asteroids or comets that have the potential to

weapons, the mitigation of orbital debris, the need for a space code of conduct.

► SWF has released a new fact sheet: [Protecting Earth from Near Earth Objects](#). Since the association of the Chicxulub crater with a mass extinction event 65 million years ago, there is increasing evidence that celestial objects have a history of impacting the Earth and affecting its inhabitants.

Over the past decade a growing amount of research has begun to identify the types of objects that pose threats to Earth and potential mitigation strategies. As a free service, SWF calls your attention to this new fact sheet that details:

- ◆ What are NEOs?
- ◆ Dealing with the threat
- ◆ Policy and legal issues

SWF provides fact sheets covering issues related to space governance. These fact sheets are both technical in nature as well as policy-related, said [Phil Smith](#), SWF Communications Director.

As detailed in the new SWF fact sheet, a particular type of NEO called a Potentially Hazardous Asteroid (PHA) is the object of particular focus when it comes to a possible impact with the Earth.

The Month Ahead

July 7
(NASA Ames, California)

[Leonard David](#), SWF Research Associate, to participate in International Space University panel on space and the media, organized and moderated by [Dr. David Livingston](#).

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July 10
(Denver, Colorado)

[Phil Smith](#), SWF Communications Director, and [Rachel Yates](#), attorney at [Holland & Hart](#) and SWF Advisory Committee member, to attend regular meeting of the [Colorado](#)

threaten Earth. Collisions with NEOs have occurred in the past and we should remain alert to the possibility of future close Earth approaches. "SWF can especially contribute to the work of COPUOS Action Team-14, concerned with crafting an appropriate institutional response to a potentially hazardous Near Earth Object," Dr. Williamson said.

Climate and Space-based Observations

Dr. Williamson underscored the work carried out by COPUOS participants during the nine-day gathering of world leaders. In particular, the Committee agreed that due to the global nature of climate change, space-based observations, complemented with ground-based observations, were well-suited to monitor the different signs of climate change and factors which are contributing to those manifestations. Space-based observations could be also used in support of mitigation and adaptation measures linked to climate change.

During the meeting, the UN [Office for Outer Space Affairs \(OOSA\)](#) signed cooperation agreements to establish the Regional Support Offices of the UN Platform for [Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response \(UN-SPIDER\)](#) with Iran, Nigeria, Romania, and the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre. The Regional Support Offices will serve as centers of expertise in the use of space technology in disaster management. The Committee also took action on a "Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Sources Applications in Outer Space".

Highlights of the 52nd session of the Committee included an address by Brigadier General Susan Helms, former U.S. astronaut and now Director of Plans and Policy at [United States Strategic Command \(USSTRATCOM\)](#). In Helms' statement to the committee she noted how international cooperation between space-faring nations could lead to improved space situational awareness. She also shared insights on last February's collision between a commercial Iridium spacecraft and a Russian Cosmos satellite.

Permanent Observer Status

"Thanks to our Permanent Observer Status with the UN COPUOS we can actively participate in discussions, meetings, and works of the Committee and its subcommittees," explained consultant Agnieszka Lukaszczyk in SWF's Vienna operations. Lukaszczyk also noted that SWF made a [statement](#) during the General Exchange of Views during COPUOS. Also, as a member of Action Team 14 on Near Earth Objects, SWF actively contributed to discussions on this issue. Additionally, SWF organized the first ever working lunch for UN COPUOS Permanent Observers to discuss roles and duties within the Committee.



Major General Yang Liwei, the first astronaut to be launched by China, provided the Chinese perspective during the 52nd plenary session of COPUOS on June 3, 2009. He pointed out that China seeks the peaceful development of outer space based on equality and mutual benefit.

Photo courtesy Xinhua.

Space Coalition (CSC).

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July 20-24

(NASA Ames, California)

Leonard David and SWF Consultant **Barb David** to attend NASA Ames Lunar Science Forum.

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July 27

(NASA Ames, California)

Dr. Williamson to chair panel on Latin American space policy at the 2009 International Space University Space Studies Program.

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July 29

(NASA Ames, California)

Dr. Williamson to chair and **Brian Weeden** and **Ben-Baseley Walker** to speak as part of the Space and Security Theme Day at the 2009 International Space University Space Studies Program.

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For past issues of our newsletter, please go [here](#).



Weeden

SWF's Brian Weeden Presented at Air Force Space Safety Council

[Brian Weeden](#), SWF Technical Advisor, presented on the subject of current international space safety efforts during an event sponsored by the Air Force Space Safety Council at [Kirtland Air Force Base](#) near Albuquerque, New Mexico from June 17-19, 2009. His talk, "International Space Safety Efforts on Debris Mitigation and SSA," covered progress being made at various international space forums, including debris mitigation, space situational awareness, space sustainability, and the overall increase in global attention being given to space security.