



The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) hosted a conference on "The Fair and Responsible Use of Space: An International Perspective" on 20/21 November 2008 at Vienna. It was jointly organised with the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and the Secure World Foundation (SWF). Selected international experts from various backgrounds gave presentations and engaged in discussions with the audience of more than 60 high-ranking professionals among them the current UNCOPUOS chairman Ambassador Ciro Arevalo.

With space applications being central to modern interactions and more and more actors becoming involved in space activities, the conference aimed at investigating how an equitable and responsible utilisation of space can be achieved for all relevant actors. In this regard conclusions and policy recommendations on aspects related to space benefits for developing countries, the peaceful use of outer space as well as space situational awareness were presented. Moreover, the role of the UN as well as data sharing issues and Space Traffic Management were discussed, complemented by views on governance issues of the international system and new insights on how to shape international cooperation. It was agreed that there is a new context for space in the post-Cold War realm, which is characterised by many more actors' involvement in space and the dual use approaches.

The workshop outlined the current space security situation, identified and analysed key challenges to the achievement of the fair and sustainable use of outer space, and formulated proposals for action in the form of the "10 Steps to Achieve Fair and Responsible Use of Outer Space". Following the conference, articles based on the presentations given in Vienna will be compiled, edited and published in the book series «Studies in Space Policy» edited by ESPI at SpringerWienNewYork.



Speakers at the IAA/ESPI/SWF conference. From left to right: Kai-Uwe Schrogl, Richard Tremayne-Smith, Wolfgang Rathgeber, Gerard Brachet, Giovanni Gasparini, Ciro Arevalo, Ben Baseley-Walker, Ray Williamson, Agnieszka Lucaszczuk, Peter Martinez, Theresa Hitchens, Niklas Hedman, Jean-Michel Contant, William Ailor, Fernand Alby, Lubos Perek, Xavier Pasco, Kazuto Suzuki, Driss El Hadani



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## IAA/ESPI/SWF CONFERENCE

The Fair and Responsible  
 Use of Space:  
 An International Perspective

ESPI, 20-21 November 2008  
 Vienna, Austria



### Conference Conclusions

**"10 Steps to Achieve  
 Fair and Responsible Use  
 of Outer Space"**





## “10 Steps to Achieve Fair and Responsible Use of Outer Space”



### **1. Apply a holistic view to the role of space-based solutions in achieving sustainable development (environment, resources, security, knowledge, mobility, energy) and ensure data sharing.**

A number of countries lack the means to take full advantage of space applications in environmental security, disaster management, resource management, education and security. Governments need to provide commercial incentives to develop related space applications. Resources, expertise and experiences have to be shared. Given the change in geopolitics in the post-Cold War environment and the resulting increase in commercial actors in space, there is a greater need for cooperation to lower the pressure on the existing resources and the environment.

### **2. Enhance the use of space in organisations dealing with development and sustainability issues, in particular in the UN system.**

The UN has to assume the leadership role that is needed and broaden its use of space applications. In this context it may develop a United Nations' Space Policy. Particularly, the inter-agency dialogue has to be strengthened. Coordination has also to be sought with institutions and organizations outside the UN system, wherever this may lead to increased efficiency in the use of space applications for sustainable development.

### **3. Strengthen the implementation and application of a harmonised legal regime and create non-binding regulations and standardisations for achieving fairness, responsibility and peace in outer space.**

The existing legal regime has to be strengthened through enhanced ratification by States of the treaties. In the course of establishing national space legislation, the States should at an early stage aim at harmonizing their regulations in order to avoid “flags of convenience” but maintain a level playing field. Legal non-binding regulations have to involve all relevant actors in order to guarantee fairness and universality.

### **4. Establish and apply consultation mechanisms, decision-making procedures and enforcement mechanisms on the international level, which guarantee global involvement, including public and private operators and users of outer space.**

A fair international system requires making opportunities for all actors to get involved in shaping the future. Consultation and decision-making must not be the privilege of a few actors. Non-governmental space actors (especially the large satellite operators) have to be integrated in a future governance scheme. The framework for envisaging such new ways could be provided by a future UNISPACE conference.

### **5. Develop fair traffic management rules for all actors, the present ones as well as new-comers. Aim at a common understanding between civilian and military users under mutual goals.**

Governments together with private operators have to consult on establishing a fair traffic management system, providing timely information on possible interference as well as verification of mitigation plans and service availability at all times. A forum for discussion for civilian and military actors has to be established, which breaks down barriers between these two groups in data sharing-issues and helps to distinguish common and mutual grounds for cooperation.

### **6. Protect the space environment and make clear that the new-comers must avoid the mistakes of the earlier users. Also protect the planetary environment.**

A mechanism has to be established, acquainting new-comers with the experience and necessary data of the existing space-faring countries to maintain a safe space environment. In this regard countries especially have to share their experience in implementing the space debris mitigation guidelines. The objective of such an effort shall be to establish customary procedures for protecting near-Earth space and the planetary environment.

### **7. Guarantee the fair and equitable use of the frequency spectrum for all space activities to all actors.**

The limited natural resource of the frequency spectrum (together with the orbital positions) has to be used in a fair and equitable manner. Mechanisms established by the ITU have long been models for achieving fairness in international relations. This status has to be maintained and further developed amidst all the geopolitical changes.

### **8. Avoid an arms race in outer space and prevent space from becoming an area of (armed) conflict.**

Space is increasingly used by militaries and more and more States depend on their space-assets in war fighting. Given this high vulnerability resulting from increased military dependence on space, avoiding an arms race in Space is of the greatest importance. Space cannot become the next high-ground.

### **9. Create mechanisms that allow emerging space powers and non-space-faring countries also to participate in the human exploration of space.**

Not all countries can engage in space exploration by contributing technology or money. Yet space exploration should to be an endeavour of the whole humankind. Mechanisms be established to allow the “have-nots” in this field to benefit from the motivation and the spirit that space exploration can provide.

### **10. Look at space in a long-term perspective and involve the youth.**

The perceptions, ideas and wishes of the youth should be carefully evaluated and taken into account when formulating new policies. Developing a long-term perspective that includes the next generation is of utmost importance. The young generation interested in space today have to become the leaders in technology for tomorrow in order to increase the benefits that space applications and exploration bring to humankind.