

Responsible space behaviours – Latin American perspectives (WP3093)

10 - 12 January 2023

Global



Tue | 14:59

Held at the W Hotel, Panama

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Context

Space enables most aspects of our lives, but threats by States to space systems could disrupt, damage, destroy or disable services dependant on them. Increasing systemic competition between States increases the likelihood that these threats will lead to crisis or conflict with widespread effects on people, countries, the space environment and strategic stability.

There are long-standing discussions in the UN on preventing an arms race in outer space (PAROS). Several proposals have been put forward such as Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs), a draft treaty to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against space objects (PPWT) and the EU's Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. However, agreement on effective approaches has been hard to reach. In the meantime, the risks of miscalculation are intensifying.

In response, the UN General Assembly adopted a new resolution (AIRES/76/231) on 30 December 2021, which established an open-ended working group (OEWG) to consider current and future threats by States to space systems and make recommendations on possible norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours relating to threats by States to space system and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session (2023).

Objectives

This event will precede the third meeting of the UN Open Ended Working Group on space threats (30 January to 3 February 2023). The aim of the conference is to provide government policy makers in Latin America with an opportunity to consider the importance of space systems, the threats to them and discuss ideas to address those threats through internationally agreed rules, norms and principles in preparation for discussion at the OEWG.

Participants

This meeting is aimed at Government policy makers in the Latin American and Caribbean region dealing with the international dimensions of space security, in particular State threats to space systems. Discussion will be informed by perspectives from other governmental and non-governmental participants including specialists in law and its applicability to space, international organisations, foundations, think tanks and representatives from the space industry.

| Propos | ed forma | t |
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The event will take place under the Chatham House rule. Meeting outcomes will be captured in a non-attributed report summarising the discussions, conclusions, policy recommendations and actions. The report will be published on a secure Wilton Park portal to which the participants will have access and can be offered to the attendees ahead of the OEWG on 30 January.

In association with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

| 15:00 | Check in available at Hotel W Panama |
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| 19:00 | Opening dinner at the Moró restaurant on LB floor in the W Panama Hotel |

Wed

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07:00 - 09:00

Breakfast then head to Great Room II on M floor for the start of the sessions.

09:00 - 09:15 Welcome and introduction

Rich Roberts

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning, United Kingdom

Tim Stew

Ambassador, British Embassy, Panama City, Panama

09:15 - 09:45 1. The journey to and an update from the OEWG

The importance of space in our daily lives as well as national and international interests including security. Risks, threats and responsible behaviours. The UN resolution and the OEWG. Latest from the OEWG.

Hellmut Lagos

Chairman of the United Nations Open Ended Working Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Santiago, Chile

09:45 - 10:30 2. Strategic competition in space

How does strategic competition generate threats and affect safe space operations? What are the risks of miscalculation and escalation, what might the consequences be? How can norms help?

Krista Langeland

Research Scientist, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, United States of America

10:30 - 11:15 Photograph followed by tea/coffee

11:15 - 12:30 3. The nature of threats to space systems

Describing the range and nature of threat capabilities which nations possess them. What are the benign uses? How might using these capabilities in peacetime generate misunderstanding and miscalculation, increase tension or trigger conflict? What are the areas of risk? Scenarios exploring Rendezvous and Proximity Operations, deliberate interference with space systems and testing.

Victoria Samson

Washington Office Director, Secure World Foundation, Washington DC, United States of America

Jennifer Whiting

Military Advisor, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., United States of America

Makena Young

Associate Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington DC, United States of America

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch at Moró restaurant on LB floor

4. Monitoring space activity and threats to space systems

The utility of SSA for understanding satellite movements and events such as DA-ASAT and RPO. What does SSA suggest about the risks they create? How do we better understand electronic warfare, jamming and cyber. What other tools do we have to implement norms?

Mike Wasson

Vice President & General Manager, COMSPOC, Exton, United States of America

Diego Pazos

Head of Satellite Systems & Operations, Telespazio LATAM, Buenos Aires, Argentina

14:45 - 15:00 Comfort break

15:00 - 16:00 5. Current frameworks and law applied to space threats.

What existing structures, legal and other, do we already have for space? Exploring the roles, focus and current work of the UN regarding space. How could improved implementation of the current framework mitigate modern threats? What are the gaps in the light of technological and political developments? What does it mean to apply IHL to space?

Carolina Catani

Technical Legal Manager in Space Law, National Commission for Space Activities (CONAE), Argentina

Romina Morello

Regional Legal Adviser for the Americas , International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Panama

Jessica West

Senior Researcher, Project Ploughshares, Canada

16:00 - 16:30 Tea/coffee

16:30 - 17:30 6. Industry perspectives on safe and secure space operations

What are industry's views on threats to commercial activities? What is its experience or concerns around cyber, EW, RPO, and the fall out of ASAT testing? As a player in the threat picture through developing potentially threatening technology such as Active Debris Removal, what are industry views on transparency and predictability in commercial activities?

Nick Shave

Managing Director, Astroscale UK & Europe, Harwell, United Kingdom

| 17:30 - 18:30 | 7. How might the regulating behaviours help address threats to space systems? |
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| | Considering non-legally binding measures, what are the options? How might non-legally binding provide a basis for developing legally binding measures? |
| | Clive Hughes Head of Space Security and Advanced Threats, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), London, United Kingdom |
| 18:30 | Reception followed by dinner at Moró restaurant on LB floor |
| 07:00 - 09:00 | Breakfast and checkout then head to Great Room II on M floor for the start of the sessions. |
| 09:00 - 09:30 | 8. Reflections from Day One |
| 09:30 - 11:00 | 9. Breakout groups - Exploring threats to space systems and how they could link to conflict. What are the implications? |
| | In breakout groups participants will consider one of three scenarios focused on proximity operations, jamming and spoofing, and destructive testing in space. Why might states choose to behave like this, how might doing so escalate toward conflict and in these scenarios what might we consider acceptable norms of behaviour? |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Tea/coffee |
| 11:30 - 12:00 | 10. Feedback from breakout groups |
| 12:00 - 13:30 | 11. Breakout groups - What are the key features of effective norms, rules and principles for addressing space threats? |

| | Taking the proximity operations, jamming and spoofing, and destructive testing in space scenarios from the previous session and the resulting norms considered, how should those norms be applied? What are the challenges of drafting and implementing effective norms for each scenario? |
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| 13:30 - 15:00 | Lunch and free time at Moró restaurant on LB floor |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | 12. Feedback from breakout groups |
| 15:30 - 16:30 | 13. Overall reflections and takeaways |
| | Participant reflections on the themes of the event, take aways to next actions. |
| | Hellmut Lagos Chairman of the United Nations Open Ended Working Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Santiago, Chile |
| 16:30 | Event ends and participants depart |