



Provisional programme

Operating in space: current multilateral policy issues and challenges (Africa)

1300-1500 GMT 6/8/10 July 2020 | WP1795

To be held by Zoom videoconference

Context and objectives

As technology continues to advance and costs fall, the use of space is growing more widespread internationally, both within government and the commercial sectors. Increased use brings increased risk associated with congestion and competition. These risks need to be managed to realise the significant security and prosperity opportunities space offers. Keeping space safe depends on good communication be it directly, through explaining intent and as demonstrated by behaviours.

Improving transparency and communication of space activities and other confidence building measures are key to reducing emerging risks. Growth in real and perceived threats to space systems necessitate clear communication or established norms of behaviour. Multilateral mechanisms and procedures are already in place which facilitate a degree of communication and which could be leveraged or expanded upon. Their development should acknowledge the importance of the space industry, which would likely develop best practice behaviours and norms independent of states, as well as capacity building for less technologically advanced states, including on communication.

This Wilton Park dialogue builds on the outputs of the April 2019 Wilton Park event “Operating in space: towards developing protocols on the norms of behaviour” and follows the first of this series of events which was held with Asian nations in Singapore in January 2020. It will include a demonstration of space activity, explore threats and current arrangements for governing operations in space. It will build off a framework of Earth-based and space-based threat to space operations, collaborative actions to reduce the perception of threat from space-based operations and from earth-based operations, and communications or other transparency measures to clarify intentions in space.

Participants will share perspectives on communications to facilitate the sustainable use of space, to inform the event aim of identifying improved forms of communication and steps to realise them.

Organised in partnership with:



Monday 6 July – 120 minutes 1300-1500 GMT (Please check your local time)

	Raising awareness of what is happening in space, clarify the distinction between peaceful uses and security issues. What are the risks and what are the threats?
1250 GMT	Participants join Zoom (Please join at your local time)
1300-1340	Welcome, introduction and opening remarks Rich Roberts Programme Director, Wilton Park Keynote address (via pre-recorded video): Robert Wood US Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, US Mission to International Organizations, Geneva Bassem Hassan Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations, New York
1340-1410	1. Interactive demonstration; space object behaviour Discussion of the view from the ground [what we can see] Travis Langster Vice President, Space Situational Awareness, Analytical Graphics Inc. (AGI)
1410-1420	Break
1420-1450	2. Counterspace risks and threats [what we know publicly] Discussion of the pre-issued Secure World Foundation report Victoria Samson Washington Office Director, Secure World Foundation
1450-1500	3. Set up pre-Day Two activity

Wednesday 8 July – 120 minutes 1300-1500 GMT (Please check your local time)

1250 GMT	Participants join Zoom (Please join at your local time)
1300-1320	4. Reflections Recap from Day One discussions, reflections and questions
1320-1350	5. Wilton Park outcomes [a policy intro] Brief introduction to policy Eric Desautels Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Emerging Security Challenges and Defense Policy in the Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Bureau, United States Department of State, Washington DC Speaker from the Region Regional perspective and capacity building
1350-1435	6. Breakout groups on the importance of a variety of communications

Considering launch, conjunction, debris and proximity operations as a framework for understanding the importance of communication about space behaviours.

1. What Earth-based or space-based threat to space operations do you think is the most pressing and why?
2. What collaborative measures and actions would reduce the perception of threat from space-based and Earth-based activities/operations?
3. What communications or other transparency measures would serve to clarify our intentions before we act in space?

1435-1440

Break

1440-1455

7. Feedback from breakout groups

Participants to provide feedback from their groups.

1455-1500

8. Set up for Pre-Day Three activity

Sharing reflections and posing questions.

1500-1530

Open chat and networking

Provides an opportunity for participants to meet other participants informally.

Friday 10 July – 120 minutes 1300-1500 GMT (Please check your local time)

1250 GMT

Participants join Zoom (**Please join at your local time**)

1300-1320 GMT

9. Reflections

Recap from Day Two discussions, reflections and questions

1320-1340 GMT

10. COPUOS perspectives

Perspectives from COPUOS, followed by discussion in plenary

Keren Shahar

Vice Chair, United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

1340-1410 GMT

11. Personal reflections on the long-term sustainability guidelines

Reflections from the former chair of the working group for the long-term sustainability guidelines

Peter Martinez

Executive Director, Secure World Foundation

1410-1415 GMT

Break

1415-1435 GMT

12. Responsible behaviours

Presentation and consideration of new UN approach followed by plenary discussion

David Edmondson

Policy Head, Space Security and Advanced Threats, Foreign and Commonwealth Office;
UK Head of delegation to UN COPUOS

1440-1500 GMT

13. Concluding session: summary and next steps

Participant opportunity for final remarks

Summary of possible multilateral next steps

Eric Desautels

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Emerging Security Challenges and
Defense Policy in the Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Bureau, United States
Department of State, Washington DC

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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