



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Directorate of Political Affairs DP
Sectoral Foreign Policies Division

Space Security and Governance - the Role of Space Middle Powers

10th United Nations Workshop on Space Law

Dr Natália Archinard, 6.9.2016



Outline

- Threats to space activities
- Different approaches
- Global space governance (before 2010)
- GGE & ICOC
- Global space governance (after 2015)
- Difficulties & Opportunities
- Space Middle Powers
- Example: Switzerland
- Possible way forward (I & II)



Threats to space activities

- Use of force against space objects and space systems:
 - Ground to space (e.g. kinetic ASAT, lasers)
 - Space to space (e.g. dual use satellites, any manoeuvrable space object)
 - Ground to ground (e.g. attacks on ground stations)
 - Space to ground (in development?)
- Radio frequency interference (intentional and non-intentional)
- Cyber attacks (e.g. on ground stations, in orbit, on signal)
- Space debris (and Near Earth Objects - NEOs)
- Space weather



Different approaches

Security

1° Focus on ARMS CONTROL: preventing the placement of weapons in outer space and the use of force against space objects through a LEGALLY BINDING treaty

e.g. draft PPWT proposed by Russia and China at the CD

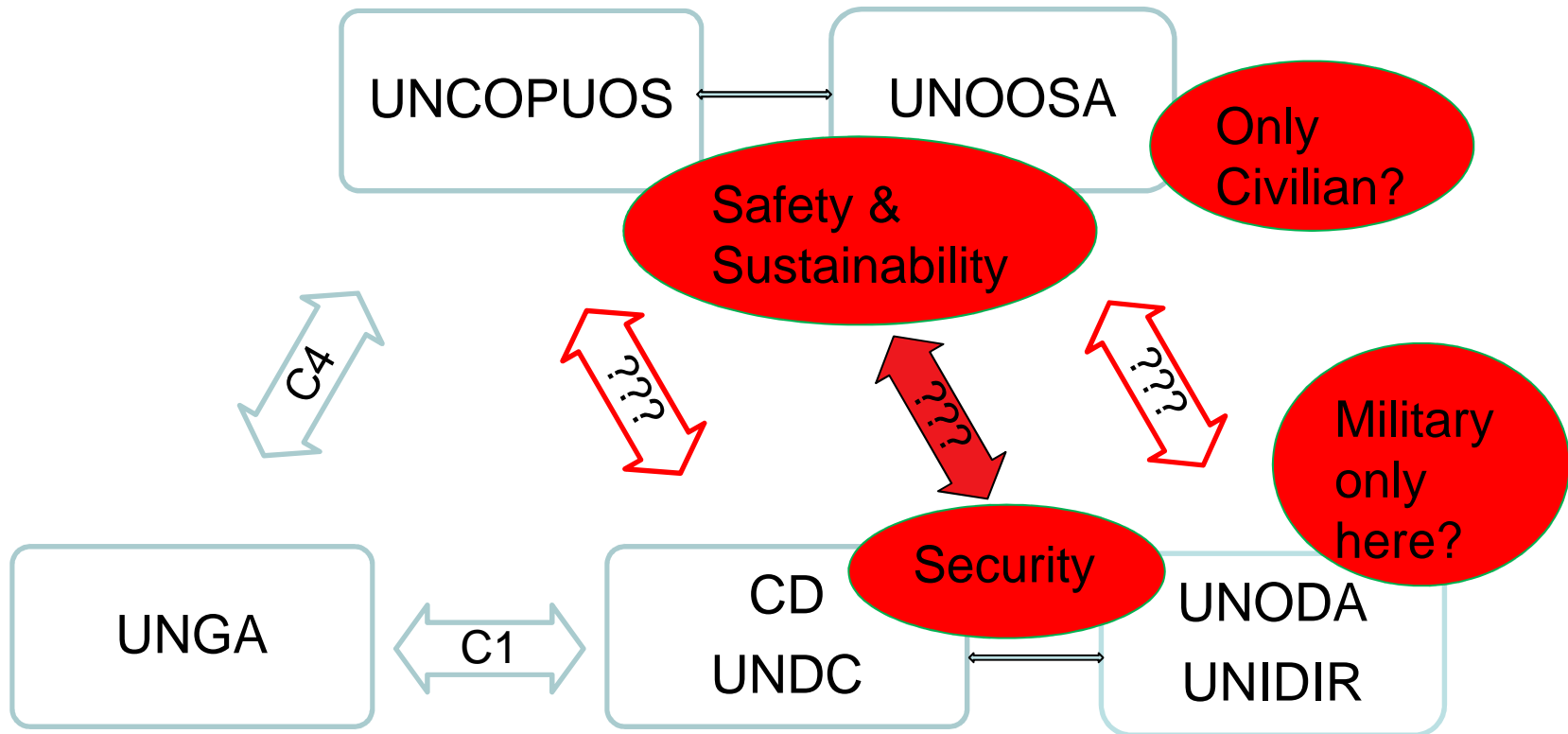
Safety & Sustainability

2° Priority on PEACEFUL USES: through NON-LEGALLY BINDING instruments (guidelines, code of conducts, etc.)

e.g. proposal by EU for an International Code of Conduct

Difficulty: these are silo approaches. Today, there is no clear frontier between civilian and military space activities.

Scheme of global space governance (before 2010)





Bridge builder n°1 : GGE

- Established by UNGA Res 65/68 (2010)
- Group of 15 Governmental Experts (GGE) of both the **space** and the **disarmament** communities
- Presented consensual report to UNGA (ref. A/68/189) (2013)
- Contains **civil and military** TCBMs and defines **criteria**
- Recommended closer cooperation between UNOOSA and UNODA (and UNIDIR)
- Joint meeting 1st and 4th Committees at UNGA 70th (2015)

Status: implementation started

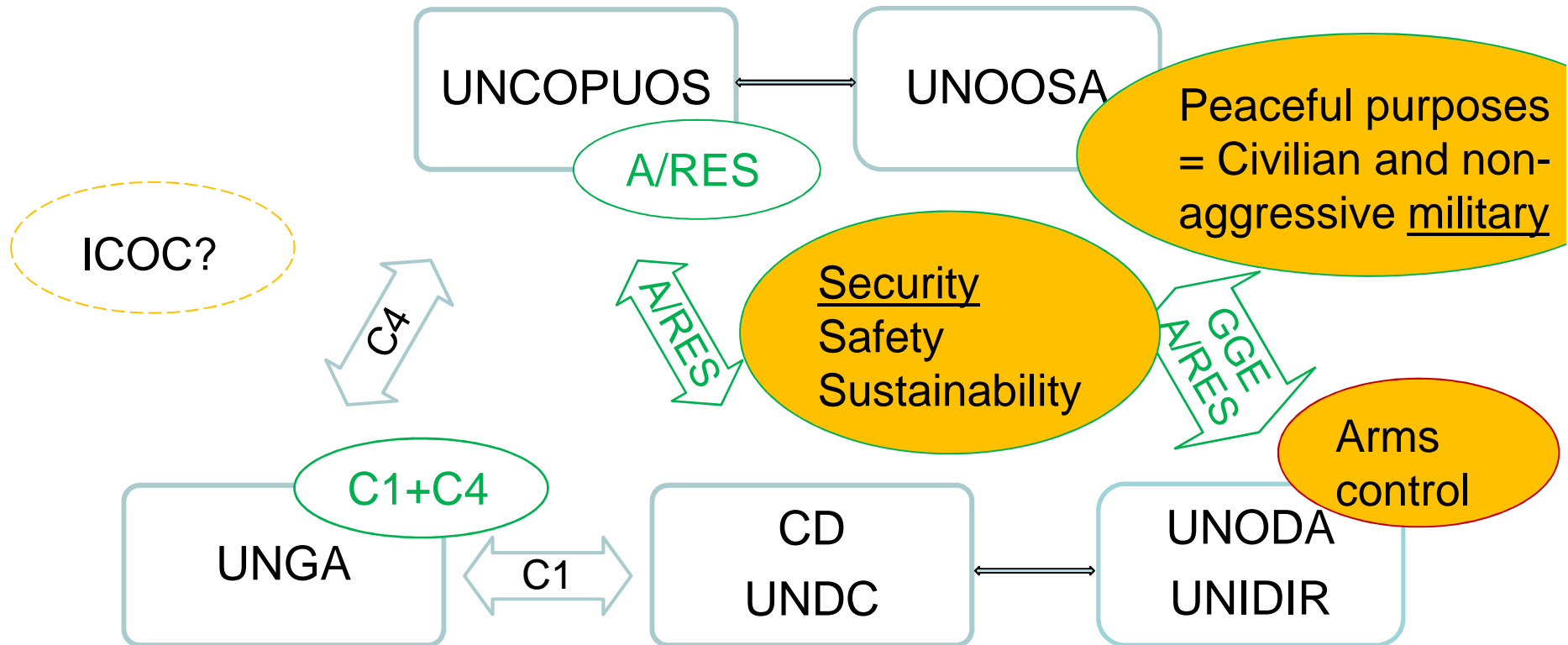


Bridge builder n°2 : ICOC

- Proposal by the European Union (EU) for an International Code of Conduct (ICOC) for space activities (2012-2015)
- Addresses **civil** (including commercial) and non-aggressive **military** activities (common understanding for “**peaceful purposes**”), but not arms control
- Both process and content were criticized:
 - No UN mandate
 - Lack of transparency and inclusiveness
 - Reference to Art. 51 of UN Charter (self-defence)

Status: project on hold

Scheme of global space governance (after 2015)





Difficulties

- Main space-faring nations have different approaches
- Space dominance and military strategies
- Geopolitical non-space related tensions
- History of international initiatives in the last years created some misunderstanding and crispation
- **Space security as such and at large is not a subject on the agenda of **any single** intergovernmental forum with mixed representation (space and international security/disarmament).**



Opportunities for further progress

- UNCOPUOS:
 - A/RES/70/82, §13: *“the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security”*
 - Adoption of 1st set of LTSSA guidelines in 2016 and extension of work until 2018
 - Progress on security-related subjects like NEOs and NPS
 - Process towards UNISPACE+50 in 2018
 - Proposals for Expert group “space objects and events” and for a Unified centre for data exchange
- UNGA: Joint panel on space security and sustainability in 2017
- UNDC: «outer space» on the agenda for 2017
- Closer collaboration between UNOOSA, UNODA and UNIDIR



Space Middle Powers (*)

Middle Powers satisfying:

- Reliance on space with limited autonomy
- High level of economic resources
- Global diplomatic presence (not only space) and respected opinion on international stage.

They have specific **reliance**, hence **incentive**, and the **potential** to have a strong **impact** in international discussions on space security.

(*) See "*The Realities of Middle Power Space Reliance*", by D. Golston with B. Baseley-Walker, UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), with the support of the Swiss government, 2015



Example: Switzerland

- No national space agency
- Strong use of space-based data, services and products
- Member of ESA, Eumetsat, Eutelsat IGO, WMO, ITU, etc.
- Swiss industry and universities participate in almost all ongoing ESA activities and in non-ESA space projects
- Active in international diplomacy in almost all areas including space governance and space security



Food for thought for a possible way forward (part I)

- Non-traditional space actors may consider playing a more prominent role in international discussions
- New approaches and/or new initiatives
- A first objective could be to reach common understanding on basic building blocks required for making progresses, such as for instance:
 - General principles of «good conduct» in outer space
 - Focused effective measures to improve safety and sustainability of space activities (e.g. data exchange)
 - Concrete implementation of (GGE's) TCBMs



Food for thought for a possible way forward (part II)

- It seems advisable that the **work** be conducted in a constructive and pragmatic way.
- It seems important that the **forum** be universal and representative with mixed expertise.
- It seems essential that the **process** be transparent and inclusive in order to allow for global ownership.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Directorate of Political Affairs DP
Sectoral Foreign Policies Division

Thank you for your kind attention!

natalia.archinard@eda.admin.ch