

UNISPACE+50: High Level Forum “Space as a Driver for Socio-Economic Sustainable Development

Preparatory Meeting, 19 November 2015, Vienna, Austria

**Welcome Remarks
by
Michael SIMPSON
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Secure World Foundation is pleased to be a sponsor of this historic forum. We not only extend our welcome but also our thanks for your presence and engagement in the important work before us.

Our Foundation is proud to be one of many voices of civil society privileged to have consultative status with ECOSOC and observer status with COPUOS.

Our presence here continues a growing tradition of cooperation with OOSA on projects advancing the peaceful uses of outer space and the long term sustainability of space activities.

We describe our mission simply as “seeking cooperative solutions to space sustainability.”

We believe that the potentially difficult discussions you undertake here are a pathway to structured cooperation in which all can have confidence and from which all can benefit.

Although our legal incorporation is in the United States, where our funding comes from a private donor committed to a more peaceful and more equitable world, at least half of our work is undertaken outside of the USA.

In 2015 alone our work will have taken place in 17 countries on every continent except Antarctica, and this with only six project managers.

We are eager to assist you as we make this journey towards UNISPACE +50 together.

And today we look forward to learning more from your perspectives, your insight, and your aspirations.