

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the UNCOPUOS 48th Session 14 February 2011

Presentation on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures (TCBM) for Space Security

Jana Robinson Resident Fellow, ESPI



Presentation Overview

- 1. Think Tank's View of Code of Conduct
- 2. ESPI's TCBM-Related Activities
- 3. Bottom-Lines on Space TCBMs4. TCBMs and Code of Conduct
- 5. Findings and Recommendations



1. Think Tank's View of Code of Conduct

- Code of Conduct (CoC) represents major European diplomatic initiative in space policy and governance
- Demonstrates role of Europe as "principled actor with formative role"
- CoC as precursor for future comprehensive system (e.g. space traffic management)
- Transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) as operational guide to validate CoC

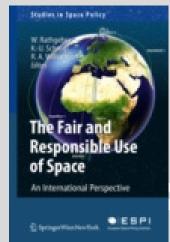


2. ESPI's TCBM-Related Activities

- In-house, open source research and expert interviews
- Conference in November 2008 and book on "Fair and Responsible Use of Space"
- Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska (U.S.) with first day dedicated to the topic of "Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures: Alternative Vehicles to Advance Space Security"
- ESPI Conference Report on "Prospects For Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Space" (ESPI Report 27)
- ESPI Study entitled "The Role of Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Advancing Space Security" (ESPI Report 28)
- Panel presentations at various events (e.g. Transatlantic Space Cooperation Workshop, ESPI, 24 June 2010)

Participants of the conference on Responsible Use of Space







TCBM conference organizers and participants (6 May 2010)



© ESPI 2011 www.espi.or.at page 4



3. Bottom-Lines on Space TCBMs

TCBM Strengths:

- Can help reverse present deterioration of overall space security environment
- Can provide policy framework to advance specific behavioural norms
- Can reinforce a space culture of cooperation and peer review
- Can preempt or deter disruptive counterspace actions

TCBM Limitations:

- An uneven track record of past success
- Have been used for suspect national purposes (e.g. signatory with hidden agenda, a delaying tactic, etc.)
- Are difficult to negotiate multilaterally on select space security topics (e.g. prohibiting weapons in space, required notification and disclosure of security-sensitive developments, etc.)
- Can be unresponsive to breaking developments in space because of longer negotiation and implementation time-frames

Bottom-Lines:

- Space TCBMs here to stay in helping blend complementary elements of existing proposals on space management
- TCBMs act as connective tissue or link between SSA and codes of conduct or other behavior modifiers
- Receiving priority attention in global space community



4. TCBMs and Code of Conduct

- TCBMs already established in treaties and/or proposed norms, including:
- Outer Space Treaty (OST)
- Registration Convention
- ITU Constitution
- UNGA Resolutions (e.g. UNGA Res. 47/68, UNGA Res. 55/122, UNGA Res. 59/115, UNGA Res. 62/101, UNGA Res 62/217, UNGA Res.63/90, UNGA)
- IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines
- UN COPUOS "Long-term sustainability of outer space activities" initiative

Proposed initiatives, including the EU Code of Conduct, can strengthen existing TCBMs



5. ESPI Findings and Recommendations

Recommendations

- Raise overall awareness of space security concerns
- Generate greater political will to cooperate
- Strengthen further debris mitigation regime
- Promote further harmonisation of space object registration
- TCBM measures to mitigate interference with space activities
- Improve compliance with OST and other obligations
- General reciprocity check list
- Mutually reinforcing space capabilities
- Internationally-shared SSA as basis for implementing and monitoring TCBMs

Overall, ESPI has witnessed increasing interest in TCBMs on the part of the space security community.