

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Secure World Foundation, I thank you for the privilege of addressing this historic assembly today.

I am Cynda Collins Arsenault and together with my husband, Marcel Arsenault, I established this foundation with the dream of advancing peaceful and equitable relations among countries through the sustainable and cooperative use of outer space.

As with most privately funded Foundations, ours began not only with a dream but also with a vision. We wanted the number of people worldwide who truly felt secure in their daily lives to grow. We wanted fear of hunger, disease, abuse, violence, natural disaster, and inequality to disappear as much as possible.

In many ways we envisioned a world where what we now know as the Sustainable Development Goals could be met.

In the short lifetime of this foundation, we have come to realize that space technologies and applications have enormous potential to make both our dream and our vision achievable. Perhaps more than in any

other area of human endeavor, space technology has been applied to advance development and to improve the human condition.

Much of the credit for this lies with the successful implementation of the goals and objectives adopted by the previous three UNISPACE conferences through the committed work of States, COPUOS and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs. Augmenting this work, Non-Governmental Organizations like ours have added their time, talent, and resources to the effort. Although we never forget that the ultimate policy decisions on the critical issues of space sustainability must be those of States, we also recognize that we can be the source of input, research, dialogue, and analysis that can provide valuable support.

We note that the extraordinary accomplishment of achieving agreement on formalizing intergovernmental cooperation in planetary defense through the creation of the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group benefitted from input by an NGO-sponsored Panel on Asteroid Threat Mitigation.

This was assembled by a fellow permanent observer of COPUOS, the

Association of Space Explorers. We were pleased to be a sponsor of that panel and a partner in the work.

We believe that the cooperation between states is and will continue to be important in advancing not only peaceful activity in outer space but also successful advancement of the sustainable development goals on Earth. So, too, we believe that cooperation between states and civil society will be an important element of reaching the year 2030 with an impressive record of both peaceful uses of space and tangible contributions to the SDGs.

As founder and board president of the Secure World Foundation, I assure you, Madame Chair and Distinguished Delegates that we stand ready to assist as we can in ensuring that 2030 will represent a joint celebration of achievement for both the SDGs and the Space2030 agenda you are forging here.

Once more, Madame Chair, thank you for this opportunity to address you.