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SAME PAGE PREPARING TO DEFEND OUR HOME – EARTH

Abstract

SAME PAGE Preparing to defend our home – EARTH Harel Ben-Ami ISA delegate for SMPAG Subcommittee, COPUOS, UNOOSA

Near Earth Objects (NEOs) constitute danger on regional and global scales. In the Chelyabinsk event in February 2013 an asteroid exploded at a few dozen kilometers altitude and caused over 1,000 casualties. The event clarified more than ever, the necessity for a world consolidation against the threat. In February 2013 the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) subcommittee convened and recommended the establishment of Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG), which pronounced 'SAME PAGE' to emphasize that in this respect we are all on the "same page". SMPAG is an international group who will coordinate the human-kind preparations for the NEOs threat. The purpose of SMPAG is to prepare for an international response to a NEO impact threat through the exchange of information, development of options for collaborative research and mission opportunities, and NEO threat mitigation planning activities. During 2014 the Israel Space Agency (ISA) decided to join the international efforts to save lives in Israel and abroad in coordination with SMPAG, and in February 2015 Israel was officially accepted to SMPAG. The lecture will describe the current status of SMPAG and its initial working plan. In addition, I will deal with new ideas and concepts regarding Israel's ability to help the global effort.