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Author: Ms. Agnieszka Lukaszczyk
Secure World Foundation, Belgium, agnieszka.lukaszczyk@ec.europa.eu

ASSESSING THE CURRENT DYNAMICS OF SPACE SECURITY - RESULTS OF THE SWF-IFRI
WORKSHOP ON THE CURRENT TRENDS IN SPACE SECURITY.

Abstract

Space security has become an increasingly important issue over recent years, with the international community witnessing a number of aggressive and/or debris-creating events in orbit. To address this issue, Ifri and the Secure World Foundation (SWF) organised a workshop in Paris.

The Space Policy Program at Ifri runs an on-going research project on Space security issues. SWF is a private foundation working on space-related issues. Its three primary focus areas include space security, human and environmental security, and protection from Near Earth Objects (NEO).

The workshop at Ifri was part of a steady stream of international discussions on ways to improve matters: official talks - bilateral or at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva; conferences gathering academics, officials and industry representatives, such as the UNIDIR annual conferences on space security or the series of international Space Situational Awareness (SSA) conferences;. The workshop was convened to complement these discussions. Similar to other initiatives of that type, it used a particular format that focuses on generating a productive debate. It was a closed meeting of experts from government, civil society and industry. This allowed the discussion to begin right away from informed standpoints. It was conducted under the Chatham House rules (protecting the confidentiality of sources), which fostered a more open discussion. Presentations were few, short and informal, so that most of the time could be devoted to debate.

This paper is based on the discussions of the workshop and present a number of recommendations.