

Global Agenda Council on Space Security 2012-2014



Understanding/Context

From North Korea's satellite launch to the meteor impact in Russia, space was in the news as a very public source of risk in the past year. But there were great progress and success stories, too. A private sector firm ferried supplies to and from the International Space Station for the first time. From tourism to mining asteroids, space entrepreneurialism is growing rapidly, with activity diversifying away from purely government programmes. Space technologies and services are also empowering civil society organizations. They are using satellite imaging capability that was once the preserve of intelligence agencies to defend human rights, prosecute war criminals and protect wildlife and World Heritage sites. Yet, space security remains detached and distant in the imaginations of most decision-makers. Too often, they overlook some of the short-term opportunities to use space-based technologies and services to help with some of Earth's most pressing challenges. They include monitoring climate change and delivering connectivity and education services to remote areas. Over the longer term, the number of government and private sector bodies with activities in space will continue to increase, and they will use space in a wide range of ways. Hence, the sustainability of Earth's orbits will become a governance challenge.

Shaping the Agenda

The Global Agenda Council on Space Security's report – Bringing Space Down to Earth – explains how existing space-based capabilities and services can help to mitigate risk, build resilience and solve global challenges on Earth. Council Members will further develop the draft of this publication at a workshop created with other Global Agenda Councils and hosted by the Institute of Air and Space Law at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

“Space security remains detached and distant in the imaginations of most decision-makers. Too often, they overlook some of the short-term opportunities to use space-based technologies and services to help with some of Earth's most pressing challenges. These include monitoring climate change and delivering connectivity and education services to remote areas.”

The Council launched the report at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2014. Over the next 12 months, the Council will explore additional ways to raise awareness and develop projects to help implement some of the ideas in the report.

Contact Information

Research Analyst: Rigas Hadzilacos, Associate, Global Agenda Councils, rigas.hadzilacos@weforum.org

Council Manager: Bruce Weinelt, Director, Head of Telecommunications Industry, bruce.weinelt@weforum.org

Forum Lead: Martina Gmür, Senior Director, Head of the Network of Global Agenda Councils, martina.gmur@weforum.org