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Chapeau

(Add your concise, concrete, and action-oriented language for the Chapeau)

*Space activities have evolved beyond the capability of the current multilateral fora and institutional arrangements within the UN system to cope with the demands of cooperative and responsive space governance in the increasingly congested and contested domain of outer space. This poses several challenges to ensure that the space environment continues to be a stable and peaceful operating domain available for use by all nations. The Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future should mention the need for effective global governance of outer space activities. **The UN's Summit of the Future should discuss the actions necessary to establish a specialized agency of the UN responsible for matters connected with the cooperative global governance of outer space activities that will oversee the governance regime(s) necessary to ensure the safety of space operations, and to maintain the benefits of, and mitigate the risks associated with, the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.***

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 1)

Space systems form part of the critical infrastructure of many nations today, underpinning human and environmental security, economic prosperity, and providing countless societal benefits to billions of citizens around the globe. Space activities are essential for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and supporting sustainable development here on Earth, but they should be conducted in a manner that does not cause harm to the space environment or diminish the ability of emerging space nations and future generations to enjoy the benefits of space activities. Therefore, we recommend that the Pact for the Future recognizes the important linkages between sustainable development on Earth and the importance of sustaining the Earth's space environment with regard to challenges posed by the rapidly increasing number of active satellites, the proliferation space debris, and the growing congestion and contestation of Earth (and in the not-too-distant future, also lunar) orbits by State and non-State actors alike.

Chapter II. International peace and security

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 2)

*Space activities should be conducted for the benefit of all humankind and should thus promote international peace and security here on Earth. **States should affirm their commitment to the cooperative governance of space activities and strengthen the multilateral arrangements to ensure peace, security, and the prevention of conflict or an arms race in outer space.***

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 3)

*The space environment is a harsh operating environment. It has taken the leading space nations decades to master safe operating practices in space. These practices should be shared as widely as possible, because avoidable failures by an emerging space actor could potentially have detrimental, long-lasting consequences for many other space actors, as well as disrupting access to the services provided by those systems to their users on Earth. **States should therefore promote and support information sharing and capacity-building as a way of enhancing the safety and sustainability of space activities.***

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 4)

*Space activities will be significant for future generations, as the burgeoning space economy has potential for creating new jobs and industries in the future. These opportunities will arise both in space and on Earth. **States should engage the youth to participate in multilateral discussions on cooperative governance of space activities.***

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 5)

The space environment is becoming increasingly congested with satellites, increasingly contaminated with space debris, and increasingly contested by State and non-State actors alike. The existing governance frameworks developed in the early years of the Space Age are no longer keeping pace with the rapid developments in the space arena. Devising an effective system of cooperative global governance for outer space activities is therefore imperative. At this time, disjointed efforts are being made both within the UN system (e.g., the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS), the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN OOSA) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)), by governments, and by various civil society and industry groups. This risks the possibility of fragmented and/or divergent governance that

could lead to legal lacunae, discord and potentially conflict in space. Without a convenor to collect and disseminate these efforts, their effectiveness will dissipate and the outer space environment risks suffering a catastrophic event. **Rather than waiting for a catastrophe to trigger potentially disparate national reactions, the Member States of the UN should take a proactive and transformational view of this issue and discuss the creation of a new UN specialized agency responsible for matters connected with the cooperative global governance of space activities.**

Such specialized agencies have existed for the maritime and aeronautical domains for decades. The [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\)](#), established in 1947 by the [Convention on International Civil Aviation \(Chicago Convention\)](#), safeguards the orderly development of civil aviation. The [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#), established by the [IMO Convention](#) when it entered into force in 1958, is a forum for international cooperation on rules and practices for safety at sea, and for the protection of the marine environment. These specialized agencies are indispensable international fora for the safe and orderly use of the maritime and aeronautical domains. The world has now reached a point where a similar level of international coordination is required at the operational level in the space domain.

SWF notes that the document [“Summit of the Future: What Would it Deliver?”](#) specifically mentions the need for “inclusive governance approaches” to create a regime or frameworks for sharing the benefits of space while maintaining the long-term sustainability of space activities.

SWF calls upon the conveners to review Policy Brief 7, [“For All Humanity - the Future of Outer Space Governance,”](#) whose conclusion notes that “Over the past decade we have witnessed a fundamental change in the actors, ambitions and opportunities in outer space, and a new era of space exploration has come rapidly upon the multilateral system. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that existing international space law is fully implemented, and that effective governance is in place to propel innovation and mitigate risks.” SWF also notes that Policy Brief 7 has a recommendation to explore “inclusive approaches to outer space governance.”

SWF also makes reference to the [30 August 2023 letter from the Summit’s co-facilitators](#) that calls for “the need to foster the peaceful and sustainable use of Outer Space.”

SWF further notes that UNIS/OS/591, released on 18 Dec. 2023, refers to the recent establishment of the [“UNOOSA Space Bridge,”](#) intended to promote global dialog of space governance issues, by involving local space agencies, government representatives, regulators, industry professionals, UN entities, non-space entities, and civil society as appropriate, to help identify tangible solutions to drive actions in line with UN OOSA’s mandate as custodian of space for the SDGs.

In conclusion, SWF notes that the outer space environment is critical for the future of humankind, and calls upon States to seize the opportunity presented by the Summit of the Future to include a global governance regime for outer space in its Pact for the Future. SWF further recommends that consideration be given to the creation of a UN specialized agency responsible for matters connected with the cooperative global governance of space activities.