

BRIEFING SERIES FOR UN DISARMAMENT COMMISSION WORKING GROUP II

PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPARENCY AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES (TCBMS)

10-12 April 2019 | UN HQ Conference Room E

Speaker Biographies

In order of appearance

DAY I

APRIL 10	13-15h	Distinguishing between “destructive” and “non-destructive” counterspace capabilities
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Panelists

Jaganath Sankaran, *Assistant Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas-Austin*

Dr. Jaganath SANKARAN works on problems that lie at the intersection of international security and science & technology. Sankaran spent the first four years of his career as a defense scientist with the Indian Missile R&D establishment. His work in weapons design and development led to his interests in matters such as the balance of military power, strategic stability, and arms control. The current focus of Sankaran’s research is Asia-Pacific. Sankaran studies the growing military and nuclear weapons capabilities of China and the counter military balancing undertaken by the United States, Japan, India and other states. Sankaran has also worked on U.S.-Russia strategic stability and nuclear arms control. Sankaran has held fellowships at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University and at RAND Corporation. Sankaran has published in *International Security*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, *Arms Control Today*, *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* and other outlets. His research has also been published by the RAND Corporation and the Stimson Center.

Rajeiswari Pilai Rajagopalan, *Senior Research Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (New Delhi)*

Dr. Rajeswari Pillai RAJAGOPALAN is a Senior Fellow and Head of the Nuclear and Space Policy Initiative at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in New Delhi. She is also the senior Asia defence writer for *The Diplomat*. Dr. Rajagopalan joined ORF after a five-year stint at the National Security Council Secretariat, where she was an Assistant Director. Prior to joining the NSCS, she was Research Officer at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. She was also a Visiting Professor at the Graduate Institute of International Politics, National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan in 2012. She is the author of four books: *Nuclear Security in India*, *Clashing Titans: Military Strategy and Insecurity among Asian Great Powers*, *The Dragon's Fire: Chinese Military Strategy and Its Implications for Asia*, and *Uncertain Eagle: US Military Strategy in Asia*. She has also co-authored and edited five other books, including *Space Policy 2.0: Commerce, Policy, Security and Governance Perspectives*; *Nuclear Security in India (Second Edition)*; *Iran Nuclear Deal: Implications of the Framework Agreement*. Dr. Rajagopalan has lectured at Indian military and policy institutions such as the Defence Service and Staff College (Wellington), National Defence College (New Delhi), Army War College (Mhow), and the Foreign Service Institute (New Delhi). She has also been invited to speak at international

fora including the UN COPUOS (Vienna), Conference on Disarmament (Geneva), UNIDIR (Geneva), ASEAN Regional Forum and the European Union.

Yuri Takaya, *Visiting Researcher, University of Tokyo*

Dr. Yuri Takaya-UMEHARA is Visiting Researcher at the Policy Alternative Research Institute of the University of Tokyo, Japan, working on academic projects related to space security, space resource exploitation and space debris management. She previously worked at the Kobe University (2011-2017) as research fellow, organized space law symposium and workshops, as well as provided space law courses to post-graduate students (2014-2017). She has been involved in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition (2001-2019). She obtained her B.A. from the Waseda University in Japan, her LL.M. from the Institute of International Air and Law of the Leiden University, The Netherlands, and her Ph.D. at the Institute of Telecommunication and Space Law (IDEST) at the Paris XI University, France. Her experience of internship at the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) focused on legal aspects of Global Satellite Navigation Systems (GNSS) and her dissertation theme was “Space Security and International Law: Verification and Monitoring Mechanisms”.

DAY II

APRIL 11

13-15h

Dual-Use Challenges: an examination of co-orbital vehicles and their many applications

Presenter

Brian Weeden, *Director of Program Planning, Secure World Foundation (Washington, DC)*

Dr. Brian WEEDEN directs strategic planning for future-year projects to meet the Foundation's goals and objectives, and conducts research on space debris, global space situational awareness, space traffic management, protection of space assets, and space governance. Dr. Weeden also organizes national and international workshops to increase awareness of and facilitate dialogue on space security, stability, and sustainability topics. He is a member and former Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Space Technologies, a member of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Executive Director of the Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS). Dr. Weeden served nine years on active duty as an officer in the United States Air Force working in space and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) operations. As part of U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC), Dr. Weeden directed the orbital analyst training program and developed tactics, techniques and procedures for improving space situational awareness. Respected and recognized as an international expert, Dr. Weeden's research and analysis have been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, National Public Radio, USA Today, The BBC, Fox News, China Radio International, The Economist, The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos, academic journals, presentations to the United Nations, and testimony before the U.S. Congress.

DAY III

APRIL 12

13-15h

Contextualizing space activities: what we know and don't know about space operations and orbital maneuvers

Panelists

Mazlan Othman, *Director of the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, International Science Council (Kuala Lumpur)*

Dr. Mazlan OTHMAN obtained a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of Otago, New Zealand, and became a lecturer at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in 1981. She seconded to the Prime Minister's Department in 1990 to set up and head the Planetarium Division, which subsequently became the Space Science Studies Division in 1993. In 1994, she was appointed by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia as a professor of astrophysics. In 1999, she became the director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) in Vienna, Austria. Afterwards, Dr. Othman returned to Malaysia to become the founding director-general of the National Space Agency (ANGKASA) beginning in July 2002. Dr. Othman also attended the Advanced Manager Programme at Harvard Business School in 2005. Upon retirement from Malaysian Civil Service in December 2007, she resumed her post as director of OOSA. In June 2009, Dr. Othman was appointed deputy director-general of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV). Dr. Othman retired from the United Nations in December 2013 and was appointed project director of Mega Science 3.0 at Academy of Sciences Malaysia in August 2014.

Alexandra Stickings, *Research Fellow for Space Policy and Security, Royal United Services Institute (London)*

Alexandra STICKINGS is Research Fellow for Space Policy and Security within the Military Sciences team at RUSI. Her research interests include military space, space warfare, counterspace capabilities and international space programmes. She has published on space topics for RUSI Newsbrief, RUSI Defence Systems and RUSI Commentary, and regularly contributes to the media, including the BBC, Channel 4, ITV and Deutsche Welle. Alexandra holds an MSc in International Security and Global Governance from Birkbeck College, University of London, a BA(Hons) in International Studies from the Open University, and a BSc(Hons) in Physics with Astronomy from the University of Nottingham. Prior to joining RUSI she worked in a variety of fields including central and local government, as well as the private sector.

Andre Rypl, *Second Secretary of the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations (Vienna)*

Andre RYPL is a career diplomat who specializes in space affairs and is currently the head of the International Cooperation Office of the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB). He is a keen supporter of space diplomacy initiatives and has been actively involved in the discussions of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities at the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), where he also coordinates the participation of the Brazilian delegation. Mr. Rypl additionally participates in discussions of other initiatives designed to ensure that only activities of a peaceful nature are conducted in the outer space environment, such as the European proposal of an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities and the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space initiative (PAROS).