**Title:** Space Security Index 2011: Challenges and Opportunities for the Sustainability of Outer Space

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**Abstract:**

The Space Security Index constitutes the only annual report in the world that systematically tracks significant developments that may affect the security and sustainability of outer space. As seen in the growing number of public-private partnerships for space operations, the boundaries between civil, military, and commercial space assets are blurring, creating interdependence and mutual vulnerabilities. Moreover, the rapid increase in the number of spacefaring actors underscores the need for a comprehensive space security normative regime that not only reflects current threats to space security, but also tackles the emerging legal questions that will inevitably arise as space inevitably becomes more congested. Intensifying space use creates governance challenges in managing space traffic, limiting the indiscriminately destructive potential of increased orbital debris, and distributing scarce resources such as orbital slots and radio frequencies. While the use of space assets for military applications such as reconnaissance, intelligence, and surveillance has grown ubiquitous for several years, space has thus far has remained weapons-free. The deployment and use of space-based space weapons by any state would likely trigger an uncontrollable arms race, which would have dire consequences for the growing number of spacefaring actors.