

Statement by Canada in the CD
Ambassador Marius Grinius
24 June 2008

Madame President,

Canada has the honour, on behalf of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, to table in the Conference on Disarmament, the report of the conference entitled: "Security in Space: the Next Generation", that took place in Geneva from 31 March to 1 April of this year.

This year the conference was convened with the financial and material support of the Governments of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and Canada, as well as from the Secure World Foundation and the Simons Foundation. In addition to the summary report, UNIDIR will also prepare a publication usually circulated later in the year.

As many of you are aware, this conference was the latest in a series of annual conferences held by UNIDIR on the issue of space security, the peaceful uses of outer space and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. This initiative is one of the few opportunities to bring together members of the CD with academics, experts, non-governmental organizations, scientists and the private sector to discuss the challenges in space and to stimulate our thinking on how to address these issues. As a first-time participant at the conference, I found it highly educational.

Canada would be grateful if this report were issued as an official document of the CD and distributed to all Member States. We would also suggest that a reference be made to it in the appropriate section of this year's report of the CD to the UN General Assembly.

Those delegations wishing to have a copy of the report of the conference immediately may address UNIDIR directly.

Thank you, Madame President.