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MEMORANDUM FOR SCUSA 72

SUBJECT: Space: The Final Frontier

**Issue:** This memorandum's purpose is to define how the U.S. will facilitate international space cooperation between willing partners and competitors to maximize economic benefits, address security risks, and promote general scientific advancement.

**Strategic Analysis:** Disruptive technologies are having a significant impact upon critical activities in space, especially in economic growth, security, and scientific advancement. The economic sector faces challenges stemming from inadequate private sector regulation and an absence of property rights. Security challenges include the rapid pace of technological change, increasing military capabilities of competitors, and a lack of space security legislation. In regards to scientific challenges, some primary obstacles include a scarcity of space-focused academics, insufficient funding for scientific infrastructure, and issues of inefficient bureaucratic processes.

**Relevant National Interests:** The U.S. national interest often aligns with those of the international community, especially in the sectors of economics, security, and science. U.S. interests in economic advancement include generating renewable energy sources, creating an equitable platform for resolving disputes, maintaining and expanding telecommunications and satellite systems, establishing mutually accepted property rights, and promoting commercialization. The U.S. national security interests are to enhance the military's strategic capabilities by improving space technology, sharing intelligence and positioning systems, as well as facilitating the use of civilian space assets. The U.S. scientific interest is to broaden technological research and development, enhance governmental technical expertise, and streamline the exchange of scientific knowledge. Potential opportunities include expanding commercial partnerships, growing space education and research opportunities, and leading broader international cooperation on issues of shared interest.

**Strategic Options:** Given the complexity of the space environment, multiple solutions can meet the main objectives of policy interests. One option is unilateral action, led by the American government and private sector, of setting objectives, providing funding, and carrying out space operations. Another option is to pursue space policy improvements through established international organizations. An alternative course is the use of a new international panel, the International Panel of Space Affairs (IPSA),

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where state and private actors will meet to discuss and produce guidelines for space economics and scientific advancement. A final strategic option is creating an internationally binding treaty, backed by an organization, the International Space Security Organization (ISSO), consisting of willing partners collaborating to provide common defense for the space security domain.

**Recommendation:** The ideal solution is two-fold: establishing IPSA to address the economic and scientific challenges and ISSO to address security concerns. IPSA is an international panel for scientific discussion and advancement, which aims to support the free exchange of ideas between the public and private sectors. The international panel will be composed of individuals representing the private sector, space-oriented military elements, and academia, with other partners to be decided later. IPSA aims to bridge the military-civilian gap and catalyze the education of future space scientists. ISSO will be a treaty-based organization providing common security against any threat to the space domain. The organization will establish a common understanding of property and orbital rights, create guidelines for space security, and facilitate intelligence sharing between willing member states. ISSO will also conduct joint exercises between different space defense programs to produce global mission readiness. ISSO and IPSA will both have a development program for aspiring member nations to further their space programs and provide for the common defense of humanity.

**Implementation:** IPSA will meet biannually including state leaders, top scientists, and key figures from the private sector. The location will rotate to ensure parity and representation for smaller nations. During this meeting, key figures will discuss the changing dynamics of the space domain, and based on these discussions, produce relevant policy guidelines for member nations to implement on a regional level. ISSO will be based on a treaty that nation-states will sign onto and the creation of the organization will follow. All space-faring nations will be invited to join ISSO, with a process for allowing new members to proceed through the development program. The organization will implement policies on a regional level like IPSA, allowing autonomy and sovereignty, while still following a common set of space security guidelines agreed to by all parties. ISSO will be re-evaluated by an independent panel of experts from all member states, who will carry out random regional inspections for compliance.

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Case X – XXX Memo/Outline (Author's Name)

Example: Case 1 – Iraq Memo (Jared Stefani)