

# Space Diplomacy Symposium 2023



Situating space diplomacy as a key tool to promote transparency and stability in the emerging nexus of military, commercial and civilian space activities



## Summary

The inaugural Space Diplomacy Symposium at the University of Washington provided a platform to explore the evolving landscape of space diplomacy. Discussions examined current shortcomings in space governance and highlighted areas where diplomatic efforts could play a significant role in maintaining peaceful and productive uses of space. Stakeholders and experts from the civil, military, commercial and scientific space sectors all highlighted similar needs and concerns that are well suited for diplomatic solutions. By bringing these communities together, the symposium facilitated further communication and collaboration to support space diplomacy.

## Key Takeaways

- US-Europe-Russia and US-China nodes of interaction dominate landscape
- Divisions between civilian, commercial and military space sectors are increasingly blurry
- Trend towards less transparency and increasing militarization driven by the war in Ukraine and US-China technology competition
- Current international law is ill-suited to rapidly developing commercial and military space capabilities
- Military and scientific space diplomacy are underutilized tools that can promote transparency in space activities

## Policy Recommendations

- **Promote** military, commercial and scientific diplomacy between the US and China
- **Develop** clear guidelines for commercial space actors
- **Reinforce** principles of existing space law and arms control

