

# Combined Space Operations Vision 2031



## Vision

Partners in national security space operations leading as responsible actors and seeking and prepared to protect and defend against hostile space activities in accordance with applicable international law.

## Mission

Generate and improve cooperation, coordination, and interoperability opportunities to sustain freedom of action in space, optimise resources, enhance mission assurance and resilience, and prevent conflict.

## The Importance of Space

Space is integral to modern multi-domain military operations and provides strategic advantage. Space-based capabilities deliver a wide range of effects that underpin daily life, including communications, navigation, remote sensing, Earth observation, weather services, and financial transactions. Maintaining and supporting the availability of these capabilities are in the interest of each nation. Continued delivery of these capabilities requires complete access to and freedom to operate in space.

Space has evolved into a contested and congested operational domain. As space becomes more crowded, the security and stability of this critical domain are endangered. Some nations have developed capabilities designed to deny, degrade, and disrupt access to and utilisation of space-based capabilities. These nations have demonstrated the ability to hold space-based capabilities at risk and to target critical assets in an effort to reduce our military effectiveness in a crisis or conflict. Further, the lack of widely accepted norms of responsible behaviour and historical practice increases the possibility of misperceptions and the risks of escalation.

The convergence of these factors creates compelling strategic and operational urgency that serves as a call to action. We share a desire to accelerate and improve our ability to conduct combined military space operations, as responsible space actors, in order to maintain security and prevent escalation in space and on Earth. We seek to be prepared to protect our national interests and the peaceful use of space.

## Shared Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles are shared broadly among the Participants in the Combined Space Operations (CSpO) Initiative Memorandum of Understanding:

- **Freedom of Use of Space:** Militaries have an important role in contributing to international efforts to ensure freedom of access to and use of space. CSpO Participants work to ensure our national security space operations promote a secure, stable, safe, peaceful, and operationally sustainable space domain.
- **Responsible and Sustainable Use of Space:** The world is reliant on space-based systems -- activities in space have consequences across the spectrum of human activity. CSpO Participants pursue activities that endeavour to minimise the creation of long-lived space debris and contribute to the enduring sustainability of the outer space environment.
- **Partnering While Upholding Sovereignty:** CSpO Participants recognise and uphold the rights of each Participant to act and communicate independently and in a manner commensurate with their own national policies and interests. National efforts are synchronised, where appropriate, through clear and open dialogue.
- **Upholding International Law:** Each Participant conducts activities in accordance with applicable international law, including the Outer Space Treaty, the UN Charter, and, in case of armed conflict, with the law of armed conflict.

## Objectives

To realise our vision and mission, CSpO Participants affirm the following objectives to guide our national and collective actions:

- **Prevent conflicts** – CSpO Participants seek to prevent conflict, including conflict extending to or originating in space. By strengthening coordination, building resiliency, promoting responsible behaviour in space, enhancing partnership, and communicating transparently, we improve our national and collective abilities to prevent conflict and to promote security and stability in all domains.
- **Unity of Effort** – CSpO Participants seek to enable combined space operations by sharing information across multiple classification levels – from the strategic to the operational and tactical levels, and at a pace that is operationally relevant – through real-time synchronised networked operations centres operated by a workforce with common training.
- **Space Mission Assurance** – CSpO Participants seek to establish and maintain a robust, responsive, and interoperable space infrastructure enabling continued space effects in the face of adverse action or changes to the space domain. Ensuring the continued function and resilience of equipment, facilities, networks, information and information systems, personnel, infrastructure, and supply chains, we seek to deny the benefit of interference and to ensure the availability of CSpO Participants' national security mission-essential functions throughout the spectrum of military operations.
- **Defence and Protection** – CSpO Participants are committed to the defence and protection of our national interests and the space domain. This may include

collaboration across a range of measures, such as: developing requirements for current and future systems to counter hostile space activities and to deter, deny, or defeat attacks or interference with the space enterprise; delivering the ability for combined, agile, and adaptive command and control through resilient, secure, interoperable, and sustainable communications; sharing appropriate intelligence and information; and timely and inclusive leadership dialogues and decision-making.

### **Lines of Effort**

The CSpO Participants seek to achieve the shared objectives outlined above through several lines of effort (LOE). The following LOEs provide a framework to guide the national and collective efforts of CSpO Participants:

- **Develop and operate resilient, interoperable architectures** to enable space mission assurance and unity of effort, through identification of gaps and collaborative opportunities.
- **Enhance command, control, and communications capabilities and other operational linkages among CSpO Participants** to support unity of effort and the ability to conduct combined and synchronised operations throughout the spectrum of military operations.
- **Foster responsible military behaviours in space** to promote conditions to maintain freedom of use, access to, and sustainability of the space domain, and to discourage irresponsible behaviour and avoid escalation.
- **Collaborate on strategic communications efforts** to set the desired conditions in the information environment.
- **Share intelligence and information** to create a common understanding and support unity of effort.
- **Professionalise space cadres and training** to energise shared, common understanding of the space domain, share best practices, and increase our collective expertise.

### **Conclusion**

The CSpO Participants are committed to pursuing the above objectives and lines of effort in alignment with our shared guiding principles to achieve our national and collective interests. The expansive opportunities and challenges presented by the rapidly changing space domain require collaboration to enhance responsible behaviour and promote a secure, stable, and sustainable domain. Through our discussions and working group activities, we intend to implement national and collective efforts towards those ends.