

# SRIC4 Panel Brief

## A Ban on Space Weapons

### Date and time

1 July 2026

16:50 UTC / 18:50 CEST / 12:50pm US East

### Chair

Dr. Gülin Dede

### Panel focus

This panel will address one of the most urgent questions facing the future of outer space activities: whether humanity can preserve outer space as a domain for peaceful, cooperative, and civilian development before conflict logic becomes normalized beyond Earth.

The discussion will focus on the question of banning space weapons. It will explore the challenges of dual-use ambiguity, existing legal gaps, strategic escalation, debris-generating actions, and the vulnerability of space infrastructure on which societies increasingly depend.

The panel will bring together legal, astropolitical, space-security, treaty-interpretation, astronaut, and Space Renaissance perspectives.

### Core framing

A space-faring civilization is emerging. The question is whether humanity will extend cooperative governance into space, or allow conflict logic to become part of the infrastructure of expansion.

### Panel structure

The panel will follow a structured sequence. Each online speaker is asked to prepare a focused intervention of approximately **5–6 minutes**, responding to the prompt assigned below. The aim is not for each speaker to cover the entire topic, but to build a coherent discussion across complementary perspectives.

#### **Dorin Prunariu — Astronaut perspective on peace and unity**

Suggested focus:

From an astronaut's perspective, why should outer space be protected as a human environment and a domain of peaceful cooperation?

#### **Dennis O'Brien — International law / SRI policy baseline**

Suggested focus:

What does the existing international legal framework already provide regarding weapons, military activity, and peaceful uses of outer space, and where are the most important gaps?

#### **Eligar Sadeh — Astropolitics and space security**

Suggested focus:

How should we understand space weapons and dual-use systems in today's astropolitical environment, and what escalation risks arise from them?

### **Joe Pelton — Space security, debris, and systemic risk**

Suggested focus:

What would space weaponization mean for the orbital environment, satellite infrastructure, debris, space situational awareness, space traffic management, and long-term operability?

### **Wes Faires — Outer Space Treaty ambiguity and dual-use overlap**

Suggested focus:

Where do ambiguities in the Outer Space Treaty framework become critical when civilian, commercial, and security-related space capabilities overlap?

### **Alberto Cavallo — Space Renaissance civilizational perspective**

Suggested focus:

From the Space Renaissance perspective, why is preventing weapons in space essential for peaceful civil expansion and the future of human civilization?

## **Indicative flow**

- 16:50–16:55 — Opening by the Chair
- 16:55–16:59 — Dorin Prunariu
- 16:59–17:05 — Dennis O’Brien
- 17:05–17:11 — Eligar Sadeh
- 17:11–17:17 — Joe Pelton
- 17:17–17:23 — Wes Faires
- 17:23–17:29 — Alberto Cavallo
- 17:29–17:46 — Moderated discussion
- 17:46–17:50 — Chair’s synthesis and closing

## **Moderated discussion**

After the speaker interventions, the discussion will focus on two guiding questions:

1. What is the most urgent governance gap today: law, technology, political trust, enforcement, or strategic restraint?
2. What should SRI advocate after this panel: a legal ban, norms of responsible conduct, a civilizational principle, or a combination of these?

## **Purpose of the panel**

The purpose of this panel is to move beyond abstract opposition to weapons in space and ask what legal, political, technical, and civilizational safeguards are now needed before dual-use ambiguity becomes the pathway through which conflict logic is normalized beyond Earth.

The intended outcome is a focused, policy-relevant, and Space Renaissance-aligned discussion that can help clarify SRI’s position on peaceful civil expansion, responsible governance, and the prevention of weaponization in outer space.

Thank you in advance for your valuable contribution.