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**x  Key International and Political Developments**

**The International Asteroid Warning Network: History, Background, and Current Status**

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**ABSTRACT**

The International Asteroid Warning Network, or IAWN, is a United Nations-sactioned organization composed of a wide variety experts in the field of near-Earth Objects (NEOs). In addition, the IAWN has experts in public policy, disaster relief and communication, and education. The IAWN was formally established in 2013 and has been growing in membership since. There are currently ~10 signatories to the Statement of Intent, including members in Europe, Asia, South and North America. The main IAWN functions include:

- the conduct and coordination of the NEO search effort;
- follow-up and characterization of NEOs;
- communicating the risks and benefits of NEOs to a wide audience;
- educating the public on NEOs;
- maintaining a clearinghouse for NEO data;
- maintaining a databse of potential impact consequences;
- serving as the single trusted source for information on NEOs.

In addition to the aforementioned background and history of this network, IAWN, in concert with the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) has recently established a set of agreed-upon threshold criteria in the event of an pending impact threat. Given the continual (and remarkable) increase in the NEO discovery rate, IAWN's role will expand.