

Strategic Defense of Earth

A panel discussion at the Congress, titled “NEOs and Planetary Defense—Where Do We Stand?”, considered various approaches to protecting the Earth from Near-Earth Objects such as asteroids and comets. Proposals for a variety of mitigation techniques were put forward by Romanian cosmonaut Dorin Prunariu, on behalf of the world’s organization of astronauts and cosmonauts, the Association of Space Explorers.

In response to the report that Russia and the U.S. recently signed an agreement that includes the potential use of nuclear explosions to avoid impacts with Earth, panel member Dr. Sergio Camacho, head of the Action Team on Near Earth Objects for the United Nations, responded that if we have only a brief warning of danger, nuclear explosions could be the best option.

Unfortunately, no Russian government representative or scientist spoke during the panel discussion. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin has repeatedly called for a global Strategic Defense of Earth, which he reiterated as recently as Oct. 16.