

## AUSTRIA, ITEM 11

**Long-term sustainability of outer space activities**  
**61st Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: (29 January–9 February 2024)**  
**Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER**

Chair,  
Excellencies – Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The main aim of the **21 Guidelines on the Long-term Sustainability [LTS] of Outer Space** that were adopted in 2019 is to preserve outer space for current and future generations. Space debris, the increasing complexity of space operations, the emergence of large constellations and the increased risks of collision and interference with the operation of space objects pose great challenges to space activities. We need to address these challenges actively and efficiently on a **global level**.

Austria fully supports the recurring **agenda item „Long-term sustainability of outer space activities”** within **COPUOS** as well as the **Working Group LTS 2.0**. We stay committed to contribute to its work as best as we can. We also look forward to fruitful discussions at the first **workshop** of the Working Group that will take place on 6 February 2024.

At this point we would also like to thank the **Chair to the Working Group** on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Affairs, **Mr. Umamaheswaran R. (India)** and the **UN Office for Outer Space Affairs [UNOOSA]**, in particular **Tanya Keusen**, for their constant and extensive work and support.

Today, I want to focus on an update regarding **Part A of the LTS-Guidelines: the policy and regulatory framework for space activities**.

Let me start by mentioning that Austria successfully launched its fourth satellite **“PRETTY”** on 9 October 2023 from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou. The small satellite was built by the Graz University of Technology, Beyond Gravity Austria GmbH and Seibersdorf Laboratories GmbH. It will provide altimetry measurements using direct and reflected signals of navigation satellites and measurement of the near earth radiation environment. Prior to its launch the Austrian Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, the **“Space Ministry”** in Austria, authorised the satellite in accordance with the conditions set out in the **Austrian Outer Space Act 2011 and the**

**Austrian Outer Space Regulation 2015.** We are currently finalising the **registration** of “PRETTY” with the UN and in our national registry.

On 8 January 2024, we learned that our third satellite “**PEGASUS**” that was built by the University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt and launched in 2017 is no longer in orbit. After 6 years, 5 months and 16 days it finished its mission, re-entered Earth’s atmosphere and burned up. It is therefore the first Austrian satellite that followed a natural decay. We are currently preparing the **change of status to be provided to the UN and the update of our national registry.**

Last but not least, in broader terms, let me also thank **UNOOSA** and the **UK** for their efforts in carrying out the initiative “**The Registration Project: Supporting Implementation of Treaty Obligations related to the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space**”. Austria happily participated in the excellent expert event that took place last May as well as in the interview part that followed last autumn. We are glad that the corresponding stakeholder study was already published on the UNOOSA website. It is a valuable resource for questions regarding the registration of space objects.

Thank you.