

## Brazil - Item 10 – Space Debris Mitigation

Madam Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor. Brazil fully endorses the statement of the G77+China, as delivered by Ambassador Solano, of Costa Rica, and we wish to add a few comments on this pressing issue.

We feel that the matter of space debris is one of the most serious challenges to the sustainability of outer space activities, a challenge that is both technical and legal. We are looking at a future scenario of greater complexity, one in which the significant expansion of space capabilities is likely to lead to an increase in the number of objects in orbit which, over time, can turn into space debris.

It is therefore important to create mechanisms that facilitate the sharing of information, as part of our efforts to promote a common understanding of approaches to SSA/STM. This is why we would welcome discussions on the possibility of setting up an international information clearinghouse for space objects and space debris, which could ensure that information regarding potential incidents and proximity operations could be shared timely and in a standard format, as well as issue alerts to countries with limited debris tracking capabilities.

From the legal perspective, we still need to find ways to regulate the use of technologies of removal and mitigation, and address matters of registration and liability. We also need to ensure that the expansion of space activities and the potential congestion of some orbits does not limit or hinder the activities of new space actors. Similarly, the removal and mitigation of space debris cannot impose undue costs or technical burdens on the space programmes of budding space actors, who bear no responsibility for the historical buildup of debris. They should, therefore, receive the necessary assistance and have access to the best practices and technologies so that they can also contribute to a cleaner, safer and more sustainable space environment.

Finally, we would urge Members States of COPUOS to commit to a suspension or ban on anti-satellite tests of any kind. Such tests run counter to our efforts to preserve the sustainability of the outer space environment. In addition, they

tend to prompt further demonstrations of ASAT capabilities, thus aggravating the generation of debris and exacerbating tensions.

Thank you, Madam Chair.