

Agenda Item No.10: General Exchange of Information and Views on Legal Mechanisms relating to Space Debris Mitigation and Remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Madam Chairperson and Distinguished delegates,

India has been supporting all the well-studied activities of Legal Sub-committee of UNCOPUOS and would continue to engage constructively in that direction.

India is cognizant of the threat posed by space debris to the security and sustainability of outer space. The potential hazards of accidental collision of debris with space assets and its impact on outer space environment cannot be underestimated. In the interest of long term sustainability of space activities, technical remedial and mitigation activities should be complemented by effective legal and policy approaches.

Madam Chairperson,

India is fully committed to its obligations undertaken in the relevant treaties on outer space. In the context of space debris, India has taken initiatives to enhance its space debris monitoring capabilities, as well as to strengthen space debris related technical studies, analyses and mitigation efforts across India. Cognizant that Space Situational Awareness (SSA) is now an integral and indispensable part of safe and sustainable space operations, as a first step, ISRO has initiated the NEtwork for space object TRacking and Analysis or NETRA project, which aims to establish a network of observational facilities. A dedicated Control Centre for Space Situational Awareness has also been established by ISRO to function as a hub of all SSA activities in India. India voluntarily implements UN and IADC recommended guidelines for space debris mitigation to the maximum possible extent. This includes passivation of upper stages, Launch COLLision Avoidance (COLA) assessments, Space Object Proximity Analyses for operational satellites, post mission disposal of GEO satellites to super-synchronous graveyard orbits, and end-of-life de-orbiting of LEO satellites/rocket stages to minimize their post mission life time. Since 2019, 27 collision avoidance maneuvers have been carried out by India.

India

Statement in 60th LSC 2021

India undertakes other Transparency and Confidence Building Measures which include, registering space objects in the UN register, pre-launch notifications, and active participation in IADC, IAA Space Debris Working Group and IAF Space Traffic Management Subcommittee activities.

A national registry is maintained by ISRO on all space objects, operational and non-functional. A mechanism to monitor and regulate space activities in the private sector to ensure sustainable space operations is being worked out in India through the recently established body named - Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe).

India has also been collaborating with other space faring nations for exchange of best practices and data sharing towards efficient and effective monitoring of Space Debris environment and better compliance with space debris mitigation guidelines.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.
