

Statement – AUSTRALIA

57th Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Agenda item 13 – Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Thank you Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

Australia welcomes the Committee's adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and acknowledgement of the LTS Guidelines in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 2019 entitled –'International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space'.

We also welcome the establishment of a working group, on the implementation of the agreed guidelines and related aspects of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. The level of interest expressed in both formal and informal discussions at the 62nd session of COPUOS suggests that this remains a significant issue for COPUOS Member States, and will build on the achievements of the previous Madam Chair,

The increase in space activities has highlighted the need to ensure the safety, stability and sustainability of the outer space environment.

Australia is committed to the development and implementation of rules and norms that seek to ensure the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space.

The LTS Guidelines provide a framework that aims to ensure that current and emerging participants in space activities act in a sustainable manner, while enjoying the benefits of space.

The working group provides an important step towards implementation of the LTS Guidelines through:

- the development of ‘responsible practices’;
- the identification of new challenges;
- information exchange and awareness raising; and
- capacity building, particularly with emerging space nations

And all of this in support of a safe, stable and sustainable space environment.

The Australian Space Agency plays a role in considering how the LTS Guidelines are implemented in Australia. We will work closely with industry and across government to implement the LTS Guidelines, as appropriate, and will bring those experiences to this working group.

In contributing to these discussions, we encourage consideration of:

- the importance of sharing experiences in our respective efforts to implement the LTS Guidelines, so that we may learn and adapt, as appropriate, based on our context;
- the development of best practices associated with implementation of the LTS Guidelines, as well as methods to build capacity in emerging space-faring nations; and
- a mechanism to incorporate views provided to Member States from non-government stakeholders, such as industry.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

Australia remains flexible as we contemplate how to contribute best to the long term safety, stability and sustainability of outer space.



The implementation of the LTS Guidelines and the ongoing efforts of the new working group provide an important step towards achieving this.

We look forward to collaborating with Member States as we work through this process.

Thank you.