

Agenda Item – 12

Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Madam Chairperson and Distinguished delegates,

The renewed interest in space activities across the globe, propelled by entry of private industries has posed many challenges for the safe and sustainable space operations in the absence of harmonised international law. The Indian delegation actively participated in the deliberations of the first working group on Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) of outer space activities and fully endorses the finalized preamble and 21 guidelines contained in the report of the working group. Fast tracking the implementation of the agreed guidelines is important. At the same time, consensus needs to be evolved on remaining issues and appropriate guidelines need to be formulated covering all the aspects to ensure long term sustainability of outer space activities. A special consideration needs to be given to the concerns of developing countries and the emerging space fairing nations in line with the philosophy of outer space being an asset of whole of humankind.

Madam Chairperson,

As a major space fairing nation with a space programme primarily devoted to the national development and governance, India has been implementing many measures and practices related to the agreed LTS guidelines including registration of space objects within the UN register, prelaunch notifications, measures in line with UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, participation in Inter Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) activities undertaking Space Object Proximity Analysis (SOPA) and Collision Avoidance (COLA) Analysis and numerous international cooperation activities.

With project NETRA (NEtwork for space object TRacking and Analysis), India has channelized its efforts in Space Situational Awareness and also joined the international efforts towards tracking, warning and mitigating space debris.

Madam Chairperson,

India has taken several measures in promoting and supporting capacity building in outer space activities. ISRO's 8 week nano-satellite assembly and training programme *UNNATI* announced by India during UNISPACE+50 has been a success story benefitting participants from 33 countries. ISRO also

hosts the UN affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) which has been playing a major role in human resource development in space science and technology for sustainable development of the region.

India announced opening up of the space sector for non-governmental entities in June 2020 for utilizing the full potential of the space based applications for the economic development of the nation. This is being followed up with draft legislation on space activities and sectoral policies, for enabling safe and sustainable space activities from Indian soil.

The Indian delegation is of the opinion that the new working group on LTS should start its substantive work at the earliest opportunity and focus on implementation of the agreed guidelines on LTS. We also believe that there is good visibility in achieving consensus on the remaining issues. Indian delegation assures its full support to the new Working Group and hopes that the working group will succeed in carrying out substantive work in the coming times towards a safe and sustainable outer space.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.