

Madam Chair,

Brazil believes that addressing the matters of sustainability of space activities is one of the most important tasks of this subcommittee. In reality, the discussions on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, or LTS, may well be the single most important item in our agenda in light of the implications of our discussions under this topic to different aspects of space activities.

The new space market provides several opportunities for investment and new actors, but the proliferation of space activities is accompanied by increasing challenges to the stability of the outer space environment. As more private players enter the field, it is imperative that we, as States, work together to identify challenges to sustainability and then develop and negotiate solutions. We must develop novel approaches and exchange experiences, develop capacities and capabilities to ensure all players can and will act responsibly, with due regard to the effect of their activities in the present and in the years and decades to come.

This is why we are seriously concerned over the fact that we have not yet been able to implement the decision mandated by the Committee in its 62<sup>nd</sup> session, which decided to establish a new working group on the long term sustainability of outer space. As no consensus had yet been achieved on the bureau of the working group, we are not able to agree on the working group's terms of reference, methods of work and workplan.

While we appreciate the positions that have been shared in the informal consultations that have been conducted by Ms. Pontso Maruping, of South Africa, and we wish to use this opportunity to express our gratitude for her commitment and hard work, compromises are still needed if we are to make a decision. In this regard, we wish to thank Japan and Switzerland for trying to move us closer to a solution by withdrawing their nominations. We hope that their example can help encourage delegations to display flexibility to help us come to consensus and start the activities of the working group.

Madam Chair,

Political issues external to COPUOS should not constitute an impediment to understanding. The working group on LTS has an ambitious agenda, which as stated in the report of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session tell us that the working group should be tasked with:

(a) Identifying and studying challenges and considering possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. This could be done by taking into consideration existing documents including, inter alia, documents A/AC.105/C.1/L.367 and A/AC.105/2019/CRP.16;

(b) Sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the adopted guidelines;

(c) Raising awareness and building capacity, in particular among emerging space nations and developing countries

We sincerely hope that we can work again in the spirit of cooperation that allowed us to reach agreement in 2019 to come to a decision that will allow us to start work as soon as possible. The challenges of sustainability will not and cannot wait.

Madam Chair,

Since the adoption of the LTS guidelines in 2019, Brazil has been proposing and implementing measures designed to ensure compliance. The Brazilian Space Agency is an active participant in the discussions here at COPUOS and has been adopting concrete actions to integrate the 21 approved guidelines to mitigate the risks associated with space activities in Brazil. As part of its endeavours, I am pleased to announce that AEB has set up its own working group to discuss this subject. This is an important step and we hope to be able to share our own experiences with implementation soon.

Thank you.