58th session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Vienna, 21st April 2021

Agenda Item 7. Space Debris

By Thailand

Madam Chair,

First of all, kindly allow me to extend our congratulations to you and the Committee for the positive achievements under your leadership during the past year. And also, thank UNOOSA to arrange the UN virtual event on Space Sustainability that was the great opportunity to share experience of each country and discuss how to implement LTS guideline effectively. The space debris is one of important issues to risk safety and security of outer space activates that affects to all nations. Thailand welcomes to adopt and properly implement LTS guidelines and Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines in Thailand.

Madam Chair, I appreciate the opportunity to present the space debris research in Thailand. As in previous years, space traffic management system known as "ZIRCON" for the collision risk assessment and mitigation developed by Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency "GISTDA" is implemented to serve GISTDA's satellites. This is the first phrase before serve all Thai satellites in the second phrase within 2023. This research development is one of significant milestones in the national roadmap of Earth Space System Frontier Research or ESS that is based on LTS guideline. Furthermore, research in shielding protection of spacecraft start in the end of this year and then new removal techniques in 2025.

Currently, development of the satellite bus in Thailand is not only government unites but also private sectors and academic sectors, which enables Thai scholars to gain experiences and opportunities to enhance our capability in engineering research and development of space technology. As a result, the activities will promote to increase the number of space objects. Thailand realizes the consequence. Therefore, we purpose to establish the center of excellence in space debris and space environment with the Southeast Asian Countries in order to follow the LTS guideline.

The center known as "Southeast Asian Space Situation Awareness Research Center" or "SEASSAR" will focus on the R&D network in term of surveillance and tracking, collision risk assessment, protection and shielding, new mitigation techniques and space policy in ASEAN.

In a past few years, Thailand started more investing and researching on space debris area to support and promote the establishment of SEASSAR. The Astrodynamics Research Laboratory or "AstroLab" hosted by GISTDA is one of the research group have expertise in space debris monitoring and mitigation. Furthermore, the policy in Thailand is designed to join the research in both academic sectors and private sectors to work together in the same goals following the national roadmap of ESS. In the aspect of being the center of the region, the

official platform of the space research collaboration under the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation will be the mechanism to support the center establishment.

Madam Chair, although Thailand is an emerging space nation, we underline LTS by embracing the guidelines to our regulations and encourage both private and government units to follow LTS guidelines in practices. The international cooperation is also critical part to enhance space technology capacity and we can gain new discover or knowledges. Therefore, Thailand welcomes, fully opens, and are pleased to collaborate all member states in all space debris research areas for our space sustainability, which connect and link without boarder.

Thank you Madam Chair