



Permanent Mission of Italy
International Organisations - Vienna

**58th SESSION OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE
(STSC)**

Item 12: long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Vienna, 22 April 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Madame Chair,

Italy strongly supports efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in order to preserve the potential for outer space to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations, while ensuring that humankind can continue to use it for peaceful purposes, scientific and technological advancements, and socioeconomic benefits. The preamble and 21 Guidelines on LTS agreed by consensus in 2019 represent countries' best practices across a broad spectrum of space issues, and the lessons learned from previous decades on how to minimize the negative impact of human space activities on the space environment. Their implementation by a large number of countries is likely to benefit the stability of the space domain.

In this perspective, Italy is increasingly aligning its space activities with the agreed UN LTS Guidelines. In particular, the adoption of the Guidelines has led to improved domestic conversations on the implications of space sustainability for the pursuit of national space activities and the development of stronger regulatory frameworks, together with coordinated national positions. The Italian National Security Strategy for Space, approved in July 2019, defines the promotion of sustainability, safety and security of space activity as a pivotal objective among our national strategic lines of action.

Consistently, we emphasise the importance of ensuring an effective follow up to the successful adoption of the Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, through the establishment of a new STSC working group. We appreciate the efforts made by South Africa as Facilitator of the Informal Consultations on the election of the Working

Group's Bureau, as well as the flexibility shown by Japan and Switzerland in withdrawing their candidates, which helped us make progress towards a consensual solutions. We are confident that a satisfactory solution will be found soon and in this regard we appeal to the commitment and flexibility of all Member States.

In order to contribute constructively to this objective, Italy has sponsored - together with several other Member States - Conference Room Paper 19/Rev.1, which contains a comprehensive proposal for the Terms of Reference, Method of Work and Workplan of the Working Group. The document takes into account the positions expressed by various delegations during the consultations held on the margins of the 2020 session of the Subcommittee and in our view it offers a balanced solution, fully consistent with the mandate provided by the COPUOS to the new Working Group, which envisages three work-strands: the implementation of the adopted Guidelines, the identification of possible new guidelines and capacity building. We therefore kindly encourage all Member States to carefully consider this document.

Thank you