

16 February 2016

Chinese/English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 15-26 February 2016
Item 14 of the provision agenda¹
Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

China's Position Paper on the Issues of Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Working paper by China

1. Since the first artificial satellite was launched into outer space in 1957, the peaceful exploration and use of outer space by States have brought great benefits to the economic and social development of humankind, and have made significant contributions to the improvement of human welfare, the support of global sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Outer space and space activities have become part and parcel of modern human life. At the same time, with the in-depth development of space activities and space applications, challenges to outer space security and development have increased as well and turned into a strategic issue affecting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and relating to the survival and development of humankind.

2. China believes that the United Nations treaties on outer space activities, adopted during the 1960s-1970s, have established basic legal norms for the international community to govern space activities. However, those United Nations treaties need further implementation and refinement in the operational aspects, and meanwhile also need to respond in a timely fashion to new changes on the part of States in their space activities as well as the latest demand for development in the protection of space environment and the maintenance of space security, in order to effectively promote the long-term sustainability of terrestrial environment while ensuring the long-term sustainable development of outer space activities.

¹ A/AC.105/C.1/L.336



3. China is a proactive advocator for the establishment of the agenda item on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS) within the framework of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. China appreciates the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in putting LTS onto its agenda items as of the 47th Scientific and Technical Subcommittee session in 2010 and establishing the LTS Working Group for focused studies. China believes that such an agenda item has set up a consultative forum for enhancing mutual trust and cooperation among States in space governance, facilitating States, according to their national conditions, to jointly adopt “Transparency and Confidence-building Measures” (TCBMs) in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, and promoting the peaceful and perpetual use of outer space for our current and future generations by the international community. Experts appointed by China have comprehensively participated in the research work of the four Expert Groups under the LTS Working Group, proactively provided comments and suggestions on the drafting of the Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines, and reached broad consensus on many issues through extensive and in-depth communications with delegations and experts of various States.

4. China highly appreciates the effective work carried out by the LTS Working Group under the leadership of Mr. Peter Martinez, and appreciates the significant contributions made by all experts from the four Expert Groups in drafting the Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines. China highly appreciates the various convenience provided to the Working Group by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and appreciates the constructive comments made by States and relevant international organizations on the Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines. China hopes that States will sufficiently exchange views on the final text of the Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines and jointly promote the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

5. As one of the critical issues faced by the international community in the arena of outer space, the “Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” is devoted to coping with the issue of long-term sustainable development of space activities. With the continuous increase of space objects, diversification of participants in space activities and the constant expansion of space exploratory frontiers, the humankind is faced with unprecedented opportunities and challenges in space activities. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is playing a significant role in regulating space activities, maintaining space order, protecting space environment, and promoting space cooperation. China is of the view that the “Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” is a monumental consensus reached by the international community in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, showing the generalization and application of the ideology of human sustainable development in outer space.

6. China is aware that, space environmental problems such as orbital congestion and the proliferation of space debris have become ever prominent, while the probability of in-orbit collisions, harmful interference and the threat of space weather events have been on the increase. At the same time, with the strategic position of outer space becoming increasingly prominent, the risk of weaponization of outer space and military confrontations in outer space is on the increase with it,

posing a potential major threat to peace and security in outer space. These are the toughest challenges to space security, with no single State alone in a position to solve them. China is of the view that the issue of space governance, as a result of its close relevance to space activities of humankind from the very beginning, is an issue on the development aspects, and States share common interests and pursuit in it. The international community, more than ever, needs to establish a common vision and take common actions.

7. China has proactively participated in the multilateral initiatives as set up by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and other forums. China is of the view that a fundamental approach to preventing the weaponization of outer space and maintain the peaceful uses and long-term sustainability of outer space is to negotiate and adopt as early as possible an international legal instrument on the prevention of weaponization of outer space, based on the Draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT) jointly submitted by China and Russia to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

8. China appreciates the efforts made by the international community to promote the peaceful and long-term sustainable use of outer space. China always attaches great importance to Transparency and Confidence-building Measures (TCBMs) in outer space. China is among the main States that have sponsored the resolutions on TCBMs in outer space in the General Assembly of the United Nations, has been an active participant in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on TCBMs in outer space, and has made many constructive proposals regarding the possible measures to be taken by States. China maintains that both TCBMs in outer space and LTS of outer space activities are beneficial attempts made by the international community to solve salient problems in outer space from different perspectives within the United Nations framework. Despite the overlaps in some common issues between these two initiatives, experience can be drawn upon from each other so as to jointly promote the modernization of and the rule of law in outer space governance. China believes that appropriate and feasible TCBMs in outer space will help enhance mutual trust, reduce miscalculations, and regulate space activities, in an effort to maintain security in outer space and serve as a useful supplement to the prevention of weaponization of and an arms race in outer space, though they cannot replace initiatives for concluding legal instruments on arms control in outer space.

9. China is of the view that space industry is still on its developing stage, and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities is an issue that has occurred during the development of space industry, and issues in the development process should be resolved by means of development. The international community should be more concerned about how to solve problems during the development process and how to better share the fruits of space activities of humankind, devoted to the resolution of LTS issues such as space debris mitigation and space weather hazards through development. From a historical perspective, space debris has been produced as a cumulative result from space activities carried out by humankind in the past six decades. It has not been formed overnight and thus is not possible to be settled once for all and forever. Space weather hazards are the common threats facing States in space activities. The international community needs to further achieve consensus,

attain synergetic development and build common capabilities in the monitoring and forecasting of space weather as well the prevention of space weather hazards.

10. China believes that international cooperation is not only a significant principle to be enshrined in the connotation of the LTS of outer space activities, but also a crucial means to promote the LTS of outer space activities. The LTS of outer space activities cannot be achieved without international cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, openness, inclusiveness and non-discrimination, or without the joint efforts of all space-faring and space-using nations. The international community needs to attach greater importance to the advance of LTS of outer space activities through helping developing countries with their capacity building. China is ready to develop practical collaborations with States in space activities and advocates enhancing mutual trust and understanding through practical collaborations. China would like to provide opportunities for more States, especially developing countries, to participate in China's space programs and to share with them the opportunities and benefits of China's space industry development. China advocates that developed countries need to provide necessary technical and financial assistance to developing countries during their implementation of the LTS Guidelines so as to achieve common development of all nations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. China is against any words or deeds of national discrimination in pragmatic space cooperation, and against any action based on various excuses to prevent other States from carrying out pragmatic space cooperation. China hopes that during the subsequent discussions on the LTS Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines, conditions should be proactively facilitated to attract more developing countries to participate in the discussions and have their concerns and pursuit expressed.

11. China is of the view that the formulation of the LTS Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines shall be carried out in strict accordance with the "Terms of Reference and Methods of Work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee" (A/66/20, Annex II), "taking into account the concerns and interests of all states, in particular those of developing countries" (A/66/20, Annex II, Paragraph 8). The outer space including the Moon and other celestial bodies does not exclusively belong to any State according to the international law, and each State has its own right to free access to and peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Given that space industry has the characteristics of high investment, high technology and high risks, all States especially the developing countries need to be encouraged to develop their space industries, participate in international cooperation, promote space applications, and share the benefits and interests brought by outer space. The LTS Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines should be dedicated to the promotion of this purpose and principle. The concept and practice of the "Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities" should be constructive. The LTS Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines should facilitate such purposes and principles with constructive ideology as well as practice. The LTS Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines should "ensure that all countries are able to have equitable access to outer space and the resources and benefits associated with it" (A/66/20, Annex II, Paragraph 12). China is of the view that the adoption of any draft guidelines should be based on the reality of the development of space technologies and space activities, taking into full consideration the concerns of all parties without placing any restriction on

developing countries from participating in space activities and developing their own space industries, and in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

12. China believes that the adoption of any advisory LTS guideline should be in strict compliance with current legal regimes on outer space, without constituting any effective modification or authoritative interpretation to any international principles and norms. Any cutting-edge legal issues and issues concerning interpretations to United Nations treaties on outer space arising during the drafting of the LTS Working Group Report and relevant Guidelines may be submitted to the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for focused studies.

13. China is of the view that the Guidelines drafted by the LTS Working Group should “be applied on a voluntary basis by States, either individually or collectively, international organizations, national non-governmental organizations and private sector entities” (A/66/20, Annex II, Paragraph 12), and they “should be voluntary and not be legally binding” (A/66/20, Annex II, Paragraph 13). Upon the precondition of being consistent with international principles and norms, States may decide on their own how to implement the relevant LTS Guidelines in accordance with their domestic legal regimes, stages of development, technology capabilities and regulatory proficiency. States should be allowed to adopt measures to carry out the requirements of the LTS Guidelines stage by stage within their national legal framework and in accordance with their national conditions and capabilities. Insufficient regulation and unnecessary excessive regulation on the space industry should both be avoided, and consideration should be given to “acceptable and reasonable financial and other connotations” while “taking into account the needs and interests of developing countries” (A/66/20, Annex II, Paragraph 13).

14. China hopes that States will promote the conclusion of a final consensus text on the LTS Working Group Report and Guidelines by following the principle of mutual understanding and seeking common ground while putting aside differences. The LTS Guidelines to be voluntarily implemented by States, international organizations and all other space actors should focus on those “practical and prudent measures that could be implemented in a timely manner to enhance the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” (A/66/20, Annex II, Paragraph 4). In order to enhance mutual trust and understanding among States, some critical concepts in the LTS Working Group Report and Guidelines with ambiguity among the six official United Nations languages should be expressed clearly and precisely, so as to avoid any logical mess or misinterpretations which may affect the role they are intended to play.

15. The United Nations is the bedrock to maintain international order after World War II, and China has been a firm advocator and proactive founder of the post-War international order and the rule of law in international context. The Charter of the United Nations has established the international order of multilateralism centering on the United Nations, formed the basic principles of international law and code of conduct governing international relationships, and also serves as the basic norms regulating space activities of humankind. In the past six decades of space activities by humankind, the United Nations has played an irreplaceable and significant role in formulating a series of treaties on outer space and establishing an international

legal regime on outer space, and is now the best widely-acknowledged forum for negotiating and promulgating norms and rules for outer space governance. States and international organizations should maintain the international order and system in consistence with the purpose and principles of the United Nations Charter and consciously maintain the authority of the United Nations and the United Nations Charter. China supports the United Nations to play an even more significant role in outer space governance.

16. China has been a proactive practitioner and firm advocator for the United Nations legal regime on outer space. As a responsible space-faring nation, China always follows the purposes and principles as enshrined in the United Nations treaties on outer space, always earnestly fulfills obligations arising from the treaties, always actively participates in the multilateral initiatives for outer space governance led by the United Nations, and always conducts its space activities in an open, transparent and responsible manner. The National Security Law of the People's Republic of China promulgated in 2015 makes it clear for the first time ever from the legal aspect that China shall insist on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. China attaches great importance to its national space legislation and actively promotes the implementation of United Nations treaties on outer space to which it has acceded. China has promulgated a series of regulations, such as the Interim Measures on the Administration of Permits for Civil Space Launch Projects, the Administrative Measures for the Registration of Space Objects, and the Administrative Measures for Space Debris Mitigation and Spacecraft Protection. At present, space legislation has been included in China's national legislation plan and is being carried out as a priority issue. Promoting the rule of law in space activities has become an essential part of the program for promoting the rule of law across China.

17. As a responsible space-faring nation, China will as always strengthen multilateral, regional and bilateral dialogues in a constructive fashion, study and exchange experience with States to enhance the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and proactively facilitate the modernization of and the rule of law in outer space governance within the United Nations framework. China appeals that States should place great importance to the promotion of pragmatic cooperation and communications to enhance the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, facilitate the common development of space activities of humankind by means of even more open and inclusive cooperation, achieve the goal of long-term mutual benefit and win-win outcome in outer space through fair, balanced, rational and feasible space governance measures, and jointly promote the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. China firmly believes that, with all States working together, the international community has sufficient wisdom and courage to resolve the common challenges facing humankind in outer space, ensure the peaceful and sustainable development of space activities, and establish a regulatory framework with both efficiency and equity. On the basis of equality and mutual benefit, China will strengthen communications, mutual learning and cooperation with all States and related international organizations, promote the common security and development in outer space, join hands with all States to establish a community of common destiny, a community of common interests, a community of common development and a community of common responsibility, make space science and technology better serve the long-term global development, and make even greater

contributions to building harmonious outer space and to promoting the progress of human civilization.

中国关于“外空活动长期可持续性”问题的立场文件

1. 自从 1957 年人类第一颗人造地球卫星发射升空以来，各国对外层空间的和平探索和利用给人类经济社会发展带来了巨大裨益，对增进人类福祉、支持全球可持续发展和实现《千年发展目标》作出了重大贡献。外层空间和外空活动已成为人类现代生活须臾不可缺少的重要组成部分。与此同时，随着空间活动和空间应用深入发展，外空安全与发展所面临的挑战同步上升，成为影响外空活动长期可持续性、攸关人类生存与发展的战略问题。

2. 中方认为，诞生于 20 世纪 60-70 年代的联合国外空公约体系为国际社会确立了空间活动的基本法律规范，但在操作层面需要进一步落实、细化，同时也需要及时回应各国航天活动的一些最新变化及保护空间环境、维护外空安全的最新发展要求，在确保外空活动自身可持续发展的同时，有效促进地球环境的长期可持续性。

3. 中国是在联合国和平利用外层空间委员会框架内设立“外空活动长期可持续性”（LTS）议题的积极倡导者。中方赞赏联合国和平利用外层空间委员会科学技术小组委员会自 2010 年第 47 届会议起在其议程中增设“外空活动长期可持续性”议题，并成立 LTS 工作组开展专题研究。中方认为，该项议题的设立，为增进各国在外空治理中的互信与合作搭建了议事平台，有助于各国根据自身国情，在和平利用外层空间领域共同寻求制定“透明和建立信任措施”，有助于促进国际社会对外层空间的和平利用和世代永续利用。中方委派有关方面专家全面参与了该工作组项下四个专家组的研究论证工作，对工作组报告及相关指南草案的编制积极发表意见和建议，与各国代表团、各国专家进行了广泛深入的交流，达成了广泛共识。

4. 中国高度赞赏“外空活动长期可持续性”工作组在彼得·马丁内兹（Peter Martinez）先生领导下所开展的有效工作，赞赏工作组项下四个专家组所有专家为工作组报告及相关指南草案的编制工作所作出的重要贡献。中方高度赞赏联合国和平利用外层空间委员会和外空司为工作组开展活动提供的各种便利，赞赏各国及相关国际组织为工作组报告及相关指南草案所提供的建设性意见。希望各国为工作组报告和指南草案最终文本的达成充分交换意见，共同促进外空活动的长期可持续发展。

5. “外空活动长期可持续性”致力于解决外空活动的长期可持续发展问题，是国际社会在当前外空领域的焦点问题之一。随着空间物体数量持续增加、外空活动主体多元化和外空探索领域不断拓展，人类的航天事业面临前所未有的机遇和挑战。联合国和平利用外层空间委员会在规范外空活动、维护外空秩序、保护外空环境、促进外空合作等方面肩负重任。中方认为，“外空活动长期可持续性”是新形势下国际社会在和平探索和利用外层空间领域达成的重要共识，是人类可持续发展理念在外层空间的推广和应用。

6. 中方认为，当前空间轨道拥堵、空间碎片增加等空间环境问题日益凸显，发生轨道碰撞和有害干扰的可能性不断增加，遭遇空间天气事件威胁的可能性越来越大。同时，随着外层空间战略地位日益凸显，外空武器化以及外空军事对抗的风险不断增加，对外空和平与安全构成潜在的重大威胁。这是外空安全面临的最大挑战，但任何国家都不可能独自迎接上述挑战。中方认为，空间治理问题与人类航天活动相生相伴，属于发展层面的问题，各国就此存在共同利益和共同诉求。国际社会比以往任何时候都更加需要树立共同愿景、采取共同行动。

7. 中国积极参与日内瓦裁军谈判会议等机构的多边谈判进程。中方认为，各国应以中国和俄罗斯向日内瓦裁军谈判会议提交的“防止在外空放置武器、不对外空物体使用或威胁使用武力”（PPWT）条约草案为基础，早日谈判达成防止外

空武器化国际法律文书，这是防止外空军备竞赛、维护外空和平利用和长期可持续性的根本途径。

8. 中国赞赏国际社会为促进对外层空间的和平利用和长期可持续利用所做出的各种努力。中国一贯重视外空“透明与建立信任措施”(TCBMs)，中方是联合国大会外空“透明与建立信任措施”传统决议的主提国，积极参与联合国外空“透明与建立信任措施”政府专家组工作，就各国可能采取的措施提出了许多建设性建议。中方认为，外空“透明与建立信任措施”和“外空活动长期可持续性”是国际社会在联合国框架内从不同层面寻求解决当前外空领域突出问题的有益尝试。上述两大进程在一些共性问题虽然存在一些交叉，但可以互相借鉴，共同推进外层空间治理的现代化、法治化。中方认为，适当、可行的外空“透明与建立信任措施”能够增进互信、减少误判、规范外空行为，有助于维护外空安全，可成为防止外空武器化和外空军备竞赛的有益补充，但不能取代外空军控法律文书谈判努力。

9. 中方认为，航天事业是发展中的事业，“外空活动长期可持续性”这一问题属于航天事业发展中的问题，发展中的问题应该通过发展加以解决。国际社会应更加重视如何在发展过程中解决问题，如何更好地共享人类航天事业成果，致力于通过发展来解决诸如空间碎片减缓、空间天气灾害等可持续性等问题。从历史维度来看，空间碎片的形成是人类开展航天活动近60年长期累积的结果，不是一朝一夕形成的，也不可能一蹴而就、一劳永逸地解决所有问题。空间天气灾害是各国开展航天活动所面临的共同威胁，国际社会需要进一步增进共识、协同发展，共同形成空间天气监测、预报与空间天气危害防护与应对能力。

10. 中方认为，国际合作既是“外空活动长期可持续性”概念本身应当包含和确立的重要原则，也是促进“外空活动长期可持续性”的重要手段。“外空活动长期可持续性”离不开平等、互利、开放、包容、非歧视的国际合作，离不开所有航天国家和空间应用国家的共同努力。国际社会要更加

重视通过帮助发展中国家提升发展能力来促进外空活动长期可持续发展。中国愿与世界各国开展航天领域的务实合作，主张在务实合作中增进互信和谅解，愿意为更多国家，特别是发展中国家提供参与中国航天项目的机会，共享中国航天事业发展的机遇和成果。中国倡导发达国家为促进发展中国家落实指南要求提供必要的技术和经济援助，促进各国在平等互利基础上实现共同发展；反对在航天务实合作中进行国别歧视，反对以各种借口阻挠他国之间开展航天务实合作的言行。中国希望，在后续的讨论中，应积极创造条件吸引更多的发展中国家参与讨论、表达关切、反映诉求。

11. 中方认为，“外空活动长期可持续性”工作组报告及相关指南的编制和实施应严格遵循《科学和技术小组委员会外层空间活动长期可持续性工作组的职权范围和工作方法》（A/66/20 附件二），要“考虑到所有国家特别是发展中国家的关切和利益”（A/66/20，附件二，第 8 段）。包括月球及其他天体在内的外层空间在国际法上不专属于任何国家，每一个国家都有自由进出、和平探索利用外层空间的权利。航天事业具有高投入、高技术、高风险的特点，应鼓励各国特别是发展中国家发展航天事业，参与国际合作，促进空间应用，一起分享外层空间给人类带来的福祉和利益。“外空活动长期可持续性”工作组报告及相关指南应有利于促进这一宗旨和原则。“外空活动长期可持续性”的理念和实践都应该是建设性的。“外空活动长期可持续性”工作组报告及相关指南应“确保所有国家都能有公平的机会利用外层空间以及与外层空间有关的资源和益处”（A/66/20 附件二，第 12 段）。中方认为，任何指南草案的出台，应立足于空间技术发展和活动的实际，充分照顾各方关切，不对发展中国家参与和发展航天事业设置门槛，同时应符合联合国安理会相关决议。

12. 中方认为，“外空活动长期可持续性”项下任何建议性指南的出台，均应符合并严格遵循现行外层空间法律制度，但并不构成对国际法准则和规范的有效修订或权威解

释。对于“外空活动长期可持续性”工作组报告及相关指南编制中可能涉及的法律前沿问题及联合国外空公约的解释问题，可以提交联合国和平利用外层空间委员会法律小组委员会进行专题研究。

13. 中方认为，“外空活动长期可持续性”工作组编制的相关指南应当是“可供各国以单独或集体的方式、各国际组织、国内非政府组织和私营部门实体自愿适用的准则”（A/66/20 附件二，第 12 段）、“应当是自愿性的，不应具有法律约束力”（A/66/20 附件二，第 13 段）。各国在不违反现行国际法准则和规范的前提下，有权依照其国内法律制度、发展阶段、技术能力和管理水平自主决定对“外空活动长期可持续性”相关指南的实施。要允许各国根据自己的国情国力在国内法框架下分阶段采取措施落实指南要求；既要避免对航天产业的监管不足，也要避免形成不必要的过度监管；同时考虑可接受的、合理的资金影响和其它影响，并考虑到发展中国家的需要和利益（A/66/20 附件二，第 13 段）。

14. 中方希望，各国能够本着相互谅解、求同存异的原则，促成就“外空活动长期可持续性”工作组报告及相关指南的最终文本达成一致。用于各国、各国际组织及其他各类空间活动行为体自愿实施的相关指南的文本内容应聚焦那些“可予及时实施的增进外层空间活动长期可持续性的务实而谨慎的措施”（A/66/20 附件二，第 4 段）。此外，从增进各国互信和理解出发，“外空活动长期可持续性”工作组报告及相关指南在联合国六种官方语言文本之间存有歧义的一些关键概念，应该有清晰、准确的表述，要避免由于概念不清引起逻辑混乱和错误解读，从而影响其发挥应有的作用。

15. 联合国是维护战后国际秩序的基石，中国是战后国际秩序和国际法治的坚定维护者和积极建设者。《联合国宪章》确立了以联合国为核心的多边主义国际秩序，形成了战后国际法基本原则和国际关系基本行为规范，也是规制人类航天活动的基本规范。人类开展航天活动近 60 年间，联合

国在主持制定一系列外空公约、建立国际空间法律制度体系中发挥了不可替代的重要作用，也是新形势下研究、制定外空治理规则公认的最佳场所。世界各国及各国际组织应该共同维护以《联合国宪章》宗旨和原则为核心的国际秩序和国际体系，自觉维护联合国及《联合国宪章》的权威，中方支持联合国在外空治理中发挥更大作用。

16. 中国是联合国外层空间法律制度的积极践行者和坚定维护者。作为负责任的航天大国，中国始终遵循联合国外空公约确立的宗旨和基本原则，认真履行条约义务，积极参与联合国主导的外层空间治理多边谈判进程，始终坚持以开放、透明、负责任的态度开展航天活动。2015年中国颁布《国家安全法》，首次从法律层面明确中国坚持和平探索和利用外层空间。中国高度重视国内航天立法工作，积极推动已加入联合国外空公约在国内的落实，先后制定了《民用航天发射项目许可证管理暂行办法》《空间物体登记管理办法》《空间碎片减缓与防护管理办法》等一系列规章制度。目前，中国航天法立法工作已经纳入国家立法规划并正在抓紧推进，法治航天建设已经成为法治中国建设的重要组成部分。

17. 作为一个负责任的航天大国，中国将一如既往地以建设性姿态加强多边、区域、双边对话，同各国一道研究和交流促进“外空活动长期可持续性”的发展实践，积极推进在联合国框架内实现外空治理的现代化、法治化。中方呼吁，各国应高度重视促进“外空活动长期可持续性”领域的务实合作与交流，通过更加开放包容的合作促进人类航天事业共同发展，通过公平、均衡、合理、可行的空间治理手段实现在外层空间的长期互利共赢，共同促进“外空活动长期可持续性”。中方坚信，只要各国戮力同心，国际社会将有足够的智慧和勇气一起解决人类在外空领域所面临的共同挑战，确保外空活动的和平发展和可持续发展，打造兼顾效率和公平的规范格局。中国愿在平等互利共赢的基础上，加强与世界各国及相关国际组织的交流、互鉴与合作，努力促进在外层空间的共同安全和共同发展，与各国携手打造外层空间的

人类命运共同体、利益共同体、发展共同体和责任共同体，使空间科学与技术更好地长期服务于全球发展事业，为建设和谐外空、推动人类文明进步作出新的更大贡献。

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