Long-term sustainability of outer space activities: Proposal to adopt and refer to the General Assembly for endorsement the Compendium of Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Proposal by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America

1. At its forty-seventh session in 2010, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space established the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. Peter Martinez (South Africa) was elected Chair of the Working Group (A/AC.105/958, paras. 181 and 182). The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space welcomed the establishment of the Working Group at its fifty-third session in 2010 (A/65/20, para. 152) and adopted its terms of reference and methods of work at its fifty-fourth session in 2011 (A/66/20, annex II).

2. At its fifty-ninth session in 2016, the Committee agreed that the 12 guidelines listed in paragraph 130 of its report (A/71/20) constituted a first set of guidelines, on which negotiations had been carried out and concluded.

3. At its fifty-fifth session, the Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, in which the Working Group agreed that it had made progress at the present session of the Subcommittee, and confirmed that consensus had been reached on the preamble and on the text of nine additional guidelines, as reflected in the conference room paper A/AC.105/C.1/2018/CRP.18/Rev.1.

4. The delegations as listed above are of the view that the first set of guidelines adopted at the fifty-ninth session of the Committee, complemented by the second set of guidelines and preamble approved by the STSC at its fifty-fifth session, form a full compendium of consensus guidelines. These delegations are of the view that this Compendium, as contained in CRP.20, should be adopted by the Committee at its sixty-first session, translated into all official languages of the United Nations, and referred to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session for endorsement in a stand-alone resolution.

5. The delegations as listed above are of the view that the Scientific and Technical Committee, under its agenda item on long-term sustainability of outer space activities,
should consider how best to examine the topics for further consideration identified by the Working Group.