



Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil

65th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Item 7: *Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) on its fifty-ninth session*

[*Check against delivery*]

Mr. chairperson,

I wish to express my appreciation for the work carried out under the Paraguayan chairmanship of the STSC and to thank the heads of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities; the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and the Working Group on Space and Global Health for the comprehensive consultations carried out in the intersessional period.

As recorded in the report, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) has become a principal forum for space sustainability discussions. It has set itself apart from any other forum, by developing a ‘bottom-up’ approach for safe and sustainable practices with regard to the use of space. Considered two of the main instruments of governance of the uses of space, the recommendations of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and the Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines), one has been agreed by the committee, what is, for its own merits, a significant contribution.

Above all, the LTS guidelines are a positive indication of our efforts to alleviate environmental degradation of outer space, by developing recommendations that can promote environmentally more positive practices in the design and operation of space missions. While we acknowledge that much remains to be done to fully implement its terms, we also note that this instrument will play an essential role in securing a safe space for future generations.

In this session, we should approve the plan of work to revise the implementation of the guidelines. In accordance with the mandate, the working plan allows for updates, to ensure that, as space activities evolve, these norms continue to reflect the most current state of

knowledge. It is also caveated with the possibility of revisiting those thematic areas in which no agreement was possible. Brazil attaches great importance to both elements of the mandate, as we consider that all space activities should be addressed through institutionalized procedures rather than *de facto* rules.

Accompanying the LTS Guidelines dossier is a number of regional and international measures to mitigate the problem of orbital space debris. Those include informational measures; consultative means; notification requirements; and design mechanisms. The Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, endorsed in the General Assembly resolution 62/217, stands out in such context. Guaranteeing that different stakeholders possess an advanced understanding of and commitment to this instrument will be essential for our space diplomacy. Those operating in outer space should share a like-minded culture of conciliation and mitigation, as well as access to the means and the mechanisms required to observe and to monitor small space objects.

Thank you.