



**67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**19-28 June 2024**

**Statement by Australia**

**Agenda item 7: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty-first session**

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates.

Australia was pleased to participate in the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, to support consideration of important issues related to scientific and technical aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Australia thanks the Chair of the Subcommittee, Ms Ulpia-Elena Botezatu of Romania, and the Secretariat for their organisation of the sixty-first session.

It was a productive session; we take this opportunity to reflect on some of its key outcomes.

***Long-term sustainability of outer space activities***

Chair,

Australia is committed to the development and implementation of rules and norms that support the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space. The Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (the LTS

Guidelines) provide an effective framework to support this outcome, and Australia is committed to their implementation.

The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, established under the Subcommittee, is an important part of this work.

At the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee, Australia contributed to the Working Group's discussions on experiences in the voluntary national implementation of the LTS Guidelines, opportunities for capacity-building, and possible challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

The workshop raised awareness and supported capacity-building, and provided a timely opportunity to collect views from entities that might not normally participate directly in the Working Group.

Australia expresses its thanks to the Chair of the Working Group, Mr Umamaheswaran of India, for his able leadership.

We look forward to further discussions of the Working Group during this session of the Committee, including on the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, with a view to developing recommendations.

***Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations***

Chair,

Australia appreciated the opportunity for delegations to continue discussions on the scope, duration and title of an agenda item related to dark and quiet skies and large constellations at the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee.

Australia has both a growing civil space sector and strong research capabilities in astronomy.

Additionally, we acknowledge the close connection held by First Nations Australians with the night sky.

We are supportive of multi-stakeholder discussions to develop practical solutions that seek to address unintended impacts of satellite constellations on astronomy.

Australia welcomes the consensus reached by the Subcommittee to include ‘Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations: addressing emerging issues and challenges’ as a single issue / item on the draft provisional agenda for the next five sessions of the Subcommittee.

Australia looks forward to the Committee’s consideration of this matter.

### ***Proposal for an Action Team on Lunar Activities Coordination***

Chair,

There is a growing interest in lunar exploration, with an increasing number of planned lunar activities presenting an emerging opportunity for international coordination.

We thank Romania for bringing forward its proposal to the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee to establish an Action Team for Lunar Activities Consultation.

Australia is pleased to support the proposal, and looks forward to further discussions.

### ***Closing***

Chair,

The sixty-first session of the Subcommittee provided an important opportunity to share experiences and progress matters which support the continued peaceful and sustainable exploration and use of outer space.

Australia looks forward to further engaging with Member States to advance these matters ahead of, and during, the sixty-second session of the Subcommittee.

Thank you.