

TCTB (General Exchange of Views, Item 4, UNCOPUOS, 68th session)

Esteemed Delegates and Secretariat:

For three years, TCTB, an international NGO dedicated to overcoming the global challenge of orbital debris, has been honored to stand among you and share our vision for cooperative remediation of the most dangerous objects in space, Massive Derelicts. Collisions among these large, uncontrolled upper stages and defunct satellites are imminent, and the risk is increasing every day.

Today, I rise, alongside my brothers, Valentin Uvarov in Russia and Guoyu Wang in China, to invite Delegations to establish a Working Group of concerned Member States to meet this challenge - to plan for, and then conduct a pilot mission to remediate one or more of these dangerous objects.

To explain our Proposal in detail, we invite you to attend a Side Meeting on Monday, June 30 where we will outline the framework of a Working Group designed to meet and overcome the challenge of Massive Derelicts. We will also outline several alternatives to a Working Group structure for your consideration. We are available throughout this session of UNCOPUOS, and afterwards, at any time and place, to discuss any aspect of our proposal or to answer questions about it. A one-page handout summarizing the Proposal, including our contact information, is available from me upon request.

Whatever your views may be about TCTB and our potential role in helping to meet this challenge, and whatever you think about the particular path we will lay before you, as sovereign governments you have an obligation to meet the challenge of Massive Derelicts, for the sake of humanity's future in space and on Earth. A Working Group at UNCOPUOS is the best way to explore that, but is up to you to design a remedy and then implement it. The path you are on now, to passively continue to study the problem while developing a few individual country solutions limited to your own debris, is not sustainable. The clock is ticking.

The truth is, for Massive Derelicts, as with any shared problem, timely action is necessary to meet the threat, but cooperation is more important than leadership. We urge you to embrace the idea of a Working Group, and allow us to facilitate your efforts to find a cooperative solution, including taking concerted action. TCTB, along with experts and industry from across the world, stand ready to assist you. TCTB's unique multi-jurisdictional structure ensures neutrality, trust and transparency, to best help the Working Group achieve its purpose.

Let us show the world that UNCOPUOS is not only a forum for discussion, but also a platform for action. Let's work together to meet the challenge of Massive Derelicts before the next collision. The future is in your hands. Please join our Side Meeting on Monday morning to hear our proposal.

Thank you.