

## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space - Sixty-eight session

[This Recording is provided under Agenda Item 4 - General Exchange of Views]

### GSOA, Agenda Item 4

#### **GSOA Statement of Support to UAE Proposal on the Establishment of an Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness (SSA)**

GSOA – Global Satellite Operators Association, is a global CEO-led industry Association representing more than seventy members, including satellite operators, manufacturers, launchers and ground segment stakeholders, operating at national, regional and global level.

GSOA is very active on safety and sustainability matters. It established an industry ***Code of Conduct on Space Sustainability***, that provides recommendations on how to:

- Mitigate the risk of in-orbit collision,
- Minimize the threat of non-trackable debris,
- Preserve human life in space, and
- Limit satellite reflectivity and the related impact on optical astronomy.

The Code also contains additional commitments to:

- Determine an industry-consensus quantification, on a per-satellite basis, of each metric relevant to the practices currently included in the Code;
- Engage with regulators on the timely development and implementation of appropriate regulations that would enable the world to maximize the use of, access to, and benefits from space resources and promote the sustainable use of space; and,
- Work with the scientific community to timely study and develop relevant scientific models to quantify, where possible, the collective impact of individual satellites, entire satellite systems and multiple satellite systems.

GSOA, in its role as Permanent Observer at the activity of the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space, wishes to provide its strong support to the Proposal for the Establishment of an Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness, submitted by the United Arab Emirates during the sixty-eight (68th) session of the Committee.

SSA is a foundational space safety activity that can provide not just better estimates of the orbital debris population, but also better conjunction assessment, and enable the safe operations between active satellites, as well as being a critical enabler of future high-cadence space operations, including but not limited to satellite operations.

Specifically, GSOA appreciates and supports the following aspects of the UAE's proposal:

- (a) **Its scope** – Space Situational Awareness can lay the groundwork to enable better Space Traffic Management.
- (b) **Its focus on elements like standardization and data sharing** – These activities can enable better assessment of risk of conjunction, particularly between two or more active spacecraft.
- (c) **Its objectives** – In particular, (C) Developing Recommendations and (D) Identifying Areas of Future Work can provide measurable outcomes in a relatively short timeframe.
- (d) **Its suggestion to create an Expert Group to include relevant non-governmental and private sector experts** – GSOA believes that industry holds relevant technical know-how to contribute towards reaching the Proposal's objectives and looks forward to contributing to the work and the success of the Expert Group by providing suitably experienced subject matter experts.

In short, the Global Satellite Operators Association encourages Member States to support the UAE ***Proposal for the Establishment of an Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness***.