

Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Agenda item 5: Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes

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Mr. Chairman,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands reaffirms its commitment to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, in full respect of international law and with a focus on the long-term sustainability, safety, and security of the space environment.

The growing accessibility and use of space offer major opportunities for innovation, climate action and security, but also increases the risk of space debris. Debris accumulation—whether intentional or due to insufficient post-mission disposal—poses a threat to critical infrastructure, global connectivity, and the safety of ongoing and future missions.

Addressing this challenge requires an integrated international approach, combining diplomacy, regulation, capacity building, and technical innovation. The Netherlands emphasizes four key priorities:

1. International diplomacy and normative leadership

We strongly support responsible behaviour in space. The Netherlands has ratified all five UN space treaties and endorsed the Artemis Accords, which promote peaceful and sustainable use of space, including norms on debris mitigation and remediation. We joined the initiative to refrain from destructive ASAT missile testing and encourage others to follow suit. We remain an active contributor to COPUOS and the LTS guidelines process.

2. Legal and regulatory frameworks

Space debris mitigation is embedded in the Dutch national legal framework. Our Space Activities Act mandates compliance with international guidelines on post-mission disposal and end-of-life planning. As we update our national law, we aim

to align with global best practices and promote a harmonised international legal framework.

3. Technical capacity building and operational engagement

The Netherlands is actively engaged in space surveillance and tracking (SST). We are a partner in the EU SST partnership, with the aim of contributing data and capabilities to help monitor and track debris and active satellites.

We are also investing in capabilities that support space traffic management, helping to enhance collective safety and situational awareness.

4. Sustainability and international cooperation

We promote a sustainable vision for space, supporting an international regime that combines debris prevention, mitigation and remediation. We advocate for open access to satellite data, knowledge exchange, and capacity building for developing countries to ensure global resilience and equitable access.

Mr. Chairman,

Space is a shared domain. Keeping it safe and accessible for future generations is a collective responsibility. The Netherlands remains committed to close cooperation within the UN, the EU and beyond to foster responsible and sustainable use of outer space.

Thank you.