

United Kingdom, Item 13

General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

The United Kingdom acknowledges the growing international concern on how congested space is becoming, whether that be through innovative constellations, debris, human spacecraft and missions, or traditional missions. The United Kingdom places high importance on the issue of sustainability of the space environment.

To continue to operate safely in space, the United Kingdom is committed to developing sustainable traffic management standards, and we have started international collaborations to achieve this objective. We recognise the importance that Space Traffic Management has on sustainability. In fact, in partnership with the US and Japan, the UK is leading the development of the ISO Space Traffic Coordination Standard with the aim of creating an internationally accepted method of operating in space. We also currently chair the ISO 24113 Debris Mitigation working group, and the UK have announced, through Science Minister Freeman, a new, industry-led Space Sustainability Mark, which is currently in development.

We continue to welcome and encourage international collaboration on Space Traffic Management and recognise that unanimous agreement will be the key to securing success on this issue. We will continue to lead and champion the safe use of space for all humankind through international standards.

Thank you Madam Chair.