

**Agenda Item 11 – General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

Mme Chair, thank you for giving me the floor. The Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to take this opportunity to speak to this agenda-item to underscore the importance of measures to remediate the effects of space debris in outer space.

Mme Chair, distinguished delegates, there should be no need to repeat our call for considering this matter with the utmost urgency. The sustainable use of outer space, including for future generations, is severely threatened by the unabated increase of space debris. States should not only implement post-mission disposal measures, but also implement the active removal of space debris. States should also include space debris mitigation measures in their national legislation. The Netherlands has implemented space debris measures in its national space legislation and all licensees need to comply with the measures which are included in the Space Debris Compendium to ensure the long-term sustainability of the space environment. This summer, a further review process of our national space law will be initiated, to ensure that it remains up to date with respect to the space debris mitigation measures, as reflected in the Long Term Sustainability Guidelines and the Compendium.

As my delegation mentioned under agenda-item nine, we consider that the issue of space debris mitigation measures is closely connected to the issue of space traffic management. While indefensible, and deplorable, ASAT tests constitute the most glaring example of the disregard for the safety and sustainability of outer space activities, collisions are another cause for the creation of long-lived space debris. The Netherlands would therefore recommend that space traffic management measures are taken also with the view to taking space debris mitigation measures.

Mme Chair, returning to the intentional creation of space debris as result of outer space activities, including ASAT tests, my government has joined the international consensus in declaring a moratorium on ASAT tests, both by our own declaration and by our support of the relevant UN Resolution. As to the kind of creation of space debris that we consider to be contrary to international law, we would state again that this includes not only the deliberate, and unnecessary, destruction of a space object in outer space, but also the incidental, but preventable, loss of control over a space object.

I thank you for your attention.