

Agenda Item No. 11: General Exchange of Information and Views on Legal Mechanisms relating to Space Debris Mitigation and Remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

Madam Chairperson and distinguished delegates,

The rapid advancements in space technology not only bring forth a wide variety of its applications but also present with it a set of unprecedented challenges to sustainable operation in outer space. The current pace of expansion of large constellations of satellites and the increasing number of launches calls for adaptive governance methods to adequately address the legal and policy challenges that arise due to this growth. In order to effectively counter the threats posed by the proliferation of space debris, current mitigation measures need to be supplemented with appropriate remediation techniques to ensure the safe and sustainable use of outer space. Active debris remediation technology, while still in its developmental stage, presents several legal challenges that are yet to be addressed on a broader, international scale. Ensuring, safe and responsible debris remediation and removal measures will therefore require effective legal and policy approaches.

Madam Chairperson,

India has always played a proactive role while participating in the activities of the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS and will continue to engage constructively in this forum. While fully committed to its obligations and responsibilities under relevant treaties and UNGA principles for outer space, India also voluntarily adapts and implements internationally recommended guidelines and standards such as the UN and IADC Guidelines inter alia, to the maximum extent possible and practicable in all its space missions and also undertakes continual efforts to improve the level of compliance with these guidelines.

Madam Chairperson,

India recognizes that Space Situational Awareness is the core of safe and sustainable space operations. Proactive efforts are underway to build indigenous capabilities for tracking and monitoring space objects to safeguard Indian space assets. The ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM) has been established to synergies space debris related technical studies, analyses and mitigation efforts across India. This capacity building is also being extended to the upcoming private sector and the necessary policy initiatives have been undertaken to ensure compliance with internationally recognized space debris mitigation guidelines by all Indian space entities.

Madam Chairperson,

India has always emphasized the importance of non-discriminatory and universally applicable transparency and confidence-building measures for space debris mitigation and remediation, including notifications on launch and post-mission disposal activities. In this regard, India actively participates in various technical fora, including the IADC, IAA Space Debris WG, and the STM Subcommittee of IAF Collaborations with other space-faring

nations include the exchange of data and sharing of best practices for space debris mitigation and monitoring of the space environment.

Madam Chairperson,

India promotes a wider implementation of the UN guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and encourages all member states to share their respective challenges involved in their implementation, be it technical or regulatory.

Thank you Madam Chairperson and distinguished delegates.