

**64th SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STATEMENT

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 “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
SUBCOMMITTEE”**

To be delivered by:

*Ms. Johaira Wahab-Manatan
Acting Director, Office of United Nations and International Organizations,
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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I.

In line with our commitment of becoming a spacefaring and space-capable nation within the next decade, the Philippines upholds the foundational principle of “Due Regard”—not merely as a voluntary norm, but as a legal obligation of all spacefaring nations—to ensure the long-term sustainability, safety, and security of space activities.

Consistent with Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty, we also commit to avoiding harmful contamination and adverse changes to the Earth’s environment. We are implementing space debris mitigation and remediation measures to the greatest extent feasible.

The proliferation of space debris poses real and growing threats to both the space environment and the Earth upon re-entry.

To address these, the Philippines integrates the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (or the LTS Guidelines) in the design, mission planning, and operations of our satellites.

These include limiting debris release, minimizing potential for break-ups during operational phases, limiting the probability of accidental collision in orbit, and preventing intentional destruction, consistent with the safe, secure, sustainable and peaceful uses of outer space.

II.

Mr. Chair, during our 62nd session, we informed this Subcommittee about the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Orbital Debris Protocols. This TWG coordinates the development of national strategies and protocols for launch and re-entry risk management.

As an update, a workshop was recently conducted in the Philippines to assist the TWG in its work by identifying risks and mitigation measures and establishing a response mechanism for space vehicle launch and orbital debris reentry.

III.

We also wish to share that regionally, under the ASEAN Subcommittee on Space Technology and Applications, the Philippines and Thailand are co-leading the ASEAN Space Situational Awareness/Space Traffic

Management Project—a key initiative to build regional capacity and promote the role of regionalism alongside multilateralism in advancing space science and technology.

IV.

Finally, in line with the LTS Guidelines, the Philippines adheres to the principle of Intergenerational Responsibility, a doctrine enshrined in no less than the Constitution of the Philippines and our jurisprudence.

This doctrine affirms the right to a balanced and healthful ecology, including in outer space. It compels us to manage and utilize space resources sustainably, preserve the space environment, and ensure that its benefits are shared equitably across present and future generations.

Mr. Chair, we believe that a critical aspect of intergenerational responsibility is mitigating space debris.

The Philippines recognizes that our proactive efforts today in debris mitigation and remediation are essential for the future of space exploration. Through these initiatives, we contribute meaningfully to global dialogue on sustainable space practices and set an example of responsible orbital stewardship.

These foundational actions are crucial to ensuring that future generations can safely access and benefit from space—underscoring our commitment to intergenerational responsibility and the preservation of outer space for peaceful exploration and shared progress.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.