

Agenda Item 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

Republic of Korea

UN COPUOS Legal Subcommittee,
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Thank you, Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates,

In recent years, human space activities have grown at an unprecedented rate, leading to an increase in space objects. This in turn has resulted in a significant rise in space debris, which now poses a considerable threat to the space environment. Given this worrying trajectory, it is crucial that we address the issue of space debris to ensure safety and sustainability of outer space exploration and utilization.

To minimize the generation of space debris, the Republic of Korea along with many other countries has committed to refraining from conducting destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing. In October 2024, we developed the Second Basic Plan for Space

Hazard Preparedness (2024–2033), which outlines our mid- to long-term strategy to systematically manage and mitigate the risks posed by space orbital debris.

Based on the COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, the Korean government enacted a recommendation for space debris mitigation in July 2020, and intends to comply with the recommendation in future space activities, and the progress is being reported in the COPUOS Science and Technology Subcommittee and the IADC.

Key elements of this plan include the development of technologies to counter space debris, such as advanced systems for the active control of space objects as well as the localization of space hazard response technologies. The plan also emphasizes the need for a comprehensive response system, which involves the creation of an integrated space hazard response system and the enhancement of space environment monitoring alongside improved information sharing.

The mitigation of space debris is a shared global concern that requires cooperative preparation and action by the international

community. The Republic of Korea firmly believes that our continued collaboration and discussions on space debris mitigation will establish a strong foundation for ensuring the safety and sustainability of outer space exploration, exploitation, and utilization.

Thank you. //END