

UK Delegation Agenda Item 13 Long Term Sustainability Statement :

Chair, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on the topic of LTS.

In 2010, the United Nation's Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) began considering the long-term sustainability of outer space by establishing a working group. Ten years on, the UK welcome's the Committee's successful adoption of the preamble and the 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

We are now at a key time in deciding how to go about carrying on this excellent work into future.

It is our strong belief that member states should now focus their efforts in implementing the guidelines. Following the years of hard and exceptional work performed in developing the LTS guidelines, it is now time for them to be practically applied and tested. To this end we strongly encourage States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures to ensure that the guidelines are implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable.

The UK are now taking practical steps in implementing the guidelines within our regulatory framework. As an example, the Space Industry Act 2018, introduced into Parliament in June 2017 contains a number of delegated powers to enable the creation of secondary legislation. This will provide a flexible platform to revise and amend the UK national regulatory framework, and work is now progressing across government, in concert with industry and other interested parties, on developing the detailed regulations for the Act. For the UK, this is a key vehicle in implementing many of the LTS guidelines and we will be providing a conference room paper later in the week providing more detail on this and other approaches we have taken to implement the guidelines. For member states considering or in the process of similar implementation activities, the UK are keen and happy to engage and collaborate, as well as exchange experience and guidance.

In terms of the future of LTS, the UK believes that preservation of the existing guidelines should be maintained until enough experience and lessons learned in their implementation have been compiled and reviewed. We expect that new guidelines, and a better understanding of what is required in the future, will emerge from implementation. The UK are supportive of a five-year working group that is driven by tangible progress in implementation and are keen that the work is coordinated and managed to ensure that appropriate technical input from both national and private entities is incorporated.

The UK recognises the important work that the working group will perform over the coming five years. At this point, we would like to express our thanks to the distinguished delegate of South Africa for acting as the interim chair to convene informal discussions on the future working group. The UK appreciated the valuable discussions we had this morning, and as per the mandates given to us by COPUOS and UN General Assembly, we hope that this informal group can come to a quick consensus on a way forward.

We look forward to continuing to contribute to the constructive and fruitful discussions on the establishment of a new LTS Working Group, as well as sharing the experiences, practices and lessons learned in guideline implementation achieve thus far.