

■ Agenda 8: Space Debris

**Statement by the Republic of Korea  
at the Fifty-ninth Session  
of Scientific and Technical Subcommittee,  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Vienna, 7 - 18 February 2022**

Agenda Item 8: Space Debris

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Good morning, good afternoon and good evening,  
Chairperson and distinguished delegates,

The Republic of Korea is very grateful for the opportunity to speak on the agenda item of 'Space Debris.' As the number of space-active countries and space objects increases, the international community encounters several significant technical and legal challenges. One of them is space debris, which is inevitably driven by space activities.

Aging satellites and space debris are primarily concentrated in low Earth orbit. About 85% of the total number of satellites currently operating in outer space orbit this low orbit. Space debris must be prioritized and overcome globally to keep the space environment safe and to sustain human activities in outer space.

Chairperson and distinguished delegates,

The Republic of Korea adopted the 「Recommendations on the development and operation of spacecrafts for the purpose of mitigating space debris」 in July 2020 after discussing with many experts from institutions, industries, and universities through formal and informal meetings and seminars for several years. This Recommendation was endorsed by the Korean working committee for the promotion of space development under the National Space Committee.

This Recommendation states in Article 1 that it complies with the 「Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines」 adopted by the UNCOPUOS. It provides administrative and technical recommendations for reducing space debris in the planning, operation, and disposal stages of space vehicle development, such as satellites and launch vehicles. This applies to all space vehicle development projects carried by domestic industries, universities, and research institutes, and it is recommended to observe the 25-year rule for the lifespan of space debris after a mission.

Chairperson and distinguished delegates,

With the adoption of this Recommendation, the Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to contribute to international efforts to reduce space debris. The Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) will be held in Jeju Island, Korea, in June of this year, hosted by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute and sponsored by the Ministry of Science and ICT. Many experts from the IADC delegation will gather on Jeju Island, a World Natural Heritage site, to discuss this challenge.

Thank you. /The End/