

UNCOPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

60th Session, Vienna/Online, 6-17 February 2023

Statement by Germany on

Agenda item 12: Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Germany continues to attach great importance to ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. The mitigation and remediation of space debris will be a major element of the Federal Government's upcoming new space strategy. We are glad that the LTS Working Group is now starting its substantive work and we will actively contribute to the preparation of a meaningful report of the Working Group over the next five years.

To this end, Germany has submitted in September 2022 a report on its national implementation of the 21 LTS guidelines. Please allow us to present a few of these examples:

Under **Guideline A.5.**, Germany registers its national space objects and monitors current developments in space activities to ensure a meaningful and coherent German registration practice. In addition to all mandatory information, voluntary information is being transmitted by Germany in a uniform format to the UN, in line with General Assembly Resolution 62/101. Our experience shows that the need to coordinate with other involved nations increases and is helpful to an effective registration process. We welcome proposals aimed at enhancing the practice of registering space objects, especially those that address uncertainties emerging from new developments in space activities. However, we would like to note that such questions are also being raised at the Working Group on Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space at the Legal Subcommittee, and we would recommend a close coordination between

these two entities so that any new recommendations are coherent and in accordance with established principles of the legal framework.

On **Guideline B.1.**, Germany would like to thank UNOOSA for initiating a process to gather and share updated contact information on national entities that engage in and exchange information on on-orbit spacecraft operations, conjunction assessments and the monitoring of space objects and event. We are pleased to contribute to this effort by providing the respective contact details of our German Space Situational Awareness Centre (GSSAC) to UNOOSA.

Under **part C**, Germany engages in international collaborative efforts, capacity-building measures and awareness-raising measures in support of the guidelines. German experts participate in various international fora dealing with space sustainability, such as the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, the International Organization for Standardization or the European Cooperation for Space Standardization.

Finally, on **part D**, Germany supports the sustainable exploration and use of outer space. Research activities in this regard include the development of sustainable space technologies, such as robotic systems for in-orbit assembly of space infrastructure or laser-based technologies for space debris tracking.

We invite delegations to consult our national report on the website of the Working Group for further specific examples contributing to sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the adopted Guidelines. We also look forward to hearing from other delegations on what they consider to be challenges to the long-term sustainability of space activities and capacity-building measures which the Working Group should consider under its workplan.

Thank you for your kind attention and we look forward to the ongoing exchanges.

Kommentiert [MB1]: Abhängig von der positiven Beantwortung der UNOOSA-Anfrage zu Übermittlung von Kontaktdaten von Weltraumgestellen im Sinne von LTS-Richtlinie B.1, interne Anfragenummer 2023-010b.