

**THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA**

**Statement**

**By the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**at**

**The Sixty Session of the SCIENTIFIC and TECHNICAL Subcommittee of  
COPUOS**

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

**February 2023 Vienna, Austria**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Over a three-day period from 15 to 17 November 2022, States and international intergovernmental organization representatives, during informal consultations addressed 3 mandates of the working group of long-term sustainability of outer space. It was a good start for substantive discussion on what matters will be addressed and how we will go forward.

There is no doubt that all States, nongovernmental organizations, research institutions and even industries would benefit from sustainability in outer space. We would like to emphasize that contributions to the sustainability of outer space by States might be different based on their different technological capabilities. All States have the right to be benefited from space and must not be deprived to explore or use outer space. It is worth mentioning, all measure proceeds in the LTS working group that might be resulted in the limitation of access to outer space for nations with emerging space capabilities, must be avoided.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Discussions and talks on the sustainability of outer space go back to many years ago as in 2018, COPUOS adopted 21 LTS guidelines. There is no doubt that sustainability in outer space does have great importance and can play a vital role in the future. Due to the high interest of some governments and commercial companies in advanced space projects such as the implementation of mega-constellations, on-orbit servicing, space debris active removal and new plans for space exploration and use of the moon, it is important to identify and study challenges to fully implement LTS aims and define new guidelines. Considering efforts and great desire of some space actors to provide broadband satellite internet

by mega-constellations, it seems addressing the challenges posed by the placement of these systems in low Earth orbit, including those related to the sustainable use of orbit, environment and frequencies, should be defined as a priority in the agenda of the STSC.

In terms of the safety of space operation, there are some challenges on the international level that echo developing countries' viewpoint as follow:

1- **Technological limitations** that contain, a lack of required data, information, knowledge, technology and infrastructure to implement the Guidelines,

2- **States and private sectors' competitive views**; the predominance of a competitive environment motivated by commercial and political views, which will prevent the formation of an interactive and cooperative approach among Member States,

3- **Lack of international mechanisms** that refer to Obscurity or failure to reach an international agreement on mechanisms and standards required for implementing some guidelines that need data sharing or consulting.

**Mr. Chairman,**

One of the most important requirements for the implementation of the LTS guidelines is access to standardized and updated orbital data of space objects that currently is in the possession of only a few countries. A serious and real will should be seen on their part to share this data with others. Solely utilization of SSA by States does not guarantee solitude safety and sustainability, therefore sharing SSA data through an international mechanism is a dire need to have a safe space for all States. In this regard, we believe that the implementation of a shared database should be pursued by UNOOSA which will guarantee the free and non-discriminatory access of all Member States to these data.

Unfortunately, some leading countries have explicitly stated in their national space strategies that they should prevent the proliferation of space technology and space capabilities to other countries, therefore how some goals like the capacity building could be implemented efficiently?

In order to achieve the main objectives of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, it is important for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to concentrate on areas such as building and promoting capacities, as well as the transfer of technology to developing countries, all within the framework of international cooperation, and for the full, effective and non-discriminatory operation of the Guidelines of the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. It is also critical for the WG to address what prevents countries from implementing the guidelines for the long-term sustainability of space activities. It will accelerate the shaping of future plans for capacity-building activities.

To conclude, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that developing a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange is an essential requirement for the long-term sustainability of outer space. If this requirement is not fully achieved, we will witness significant challenges to implement these guidelines and should note that most of the developing countries are not able to materialize the guidelines.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman.**