

Agenda Item No. 12: Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates

It is a matter of fact that space sustainability is the only way we all can ensure that outer space is used for peaceful purposes and results in the socio-economic uplift of all humanity. This would require international cooperation to ensure that outer space remains safe, secure and peaceful. With the rapid development of outer space activities, challenges to the sustainability of outer space have also increased and become an important issue concerning the interests of all countries.

Mr. Chairman

Pakistan, being member of the Working Group on Long Term Sustainability has been participating in drafting the guidelines. Pakistan is aligned with like-minded space emerging countries focusing mostly on the guidelines pertaining to prevention of placing weapons in outer space, installation of space objects observation hardware in developing countries as well as their human resource development.

Pakistan anticipates that the Working Group on Long Term Sustainability of outer space activities would be able to chalk out a feasible and working roadmap for the future of space sustainability in the face of aggressive commercialization and democratization of space activities. However, the sustainability of outer space activities is in danger due to an ever-increasing number of objects being launched into orbit. The foreseen and unforeseen consequences associated with this practice include increased collision risk, inference with the operations of outer space objects, more pronounced in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Mr. Chairman

Small sized objects have played an important role in promotion of space research and exploration activities by means of reducing cost and opening easy access to outer space,

particularly for emerging space countries. This has also been a source of large amount of small-sized benefits after completion of small satellite missions, especially in LEO. Pakistan supports further discussions on issues like universal definition of small sized space objects, regulatory mechanisms for small satellite missions and monitoring of small-sized debris, so that a practicable approach may be adopted in the interest of all Member States.

In this regard, an international space debris observation, data sharing and service platform may also be established at UN level for technical assistance and capacity building of all member states, irrespective of their degree of scientific and economic development.

Thank you Mr. Chairman