

Statement – AUSTRALIA

60th Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

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

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates,

Australia is committed to the development and implementation of rules and norms that seek to support the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space. The Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines) provide an effective framework to support this outcome.

Implementation of the LTS Guidelines

Australia continues to undertake practical steps to implement the LTS Guidelines, as well as track progress of implementation efforts to date.

In November 2022, Australia was pleased to provide a submission to the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Working Group), which includes case studies on implementation of certain Guidelines.

The submission captures a range of activities, including updating of Australia's regulatory framework to include measures that require the space sector to consider the safety and sustainability of their outer space activities. This supports implementation of elements of Guidelines A.1 and A.2 regarding the policy and regulatory framework for space activities. Australia's cooperation with domestic and international partners to specify, predict and forecast space weather has also been a focus of implementation efforts with respect to technical and capacity-building elements of Guidelines B.6, B.7 and C.1.

We are pleased to now share further examples of Australia's implementation of the LTS Guidelines. This includes an overview of the way Australia is implementing its obligations regarding the registration of objects launched into outer space, in line with Guideline A.5 on enhancing registration practice. Another case study profiles the regulatory engagement framework that supports our ongoing engagement with the Australian space sector, including in building a culture of safety. This contributes to implementation of Guideline C.4 on raising awareness of space activities.

Australia hopes that sharing our experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation will support awareness raising and capacity building in implementation of the LTS Guidelines as a whole.

Looking ahead, Australia is developing a structured approach to monitoring its implementation of the LTS Guidelines. As well as providing a picture of Australia's activities in implementing the LTS Guidelines, a broader objective of this work is to identify practices, and potential gaps for further consideration, in Australia's implementation of the LTS Guidelines.

Additionally, the Australian Space Agency is developing a strategic approach to address key environmental and social impacts from space activities, including those that are unique to Australia, including options for a potential space monitoring capability.

LTS 2.0 Working Group

Chair,

Australia strongly supports the aims of the LTS Working Group. In our view, the sharing of experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the Guidelines is key to raising awareness of, and building capacity in, implementation of the LTS Guidelines as a whole.

We appreciate the constructive way in which Member States have engaged in discussions to date, including in the informal consultations of the Working Group last November.

We look forward to contributing to the Working Group's next tasks, including discussion of challenges and lessons learned from implementation of the LTS Guidelines; and exchanges of ideas on capacity building, challenges and possible new guidelines. We are also looking forward to progressing preparations for the workshop to be held in 2024, and support hearing the perspectives of private industry, academia and others on raising awareness and capacity building in implementation of the LTS Guidelines.

Australia continues to extend its full support to the Chair, Dr Umamaheswaran R (India), in his efforts to guide the Working Group in delivering on its objectives.

Conclusion

Chair, distinguished delegates,



Australian Government



Australian
Space Agency

We look forward to continuing to engage with the Committee as we work to develop rules and norms that support safer and more sustainable activities in outer space.

Thank you.