

Canada
Agenda Item 11 – Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities
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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty-First Session, Vienna, 29 January – 09 February, 2024

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada would like to thank the Chair of the Working Group Mr. Umamaheswaran and the Secretariat, for their tireless efforts to support the work of the Long-term Sustainability working group. We note with appreciation the development of the Chair's summary of the discussion on implementation of the existing guidelines, to date. This is an important contribution to moving the work forward, as we near the mid-point of the working group's mandate.

We are also delighted that during this session of the STSC there will be a Capacity-Building Workshop on the Long-term sustainability of outer space activities and we are pleased to be supporting this workshop through the involvement of the Manager of Flight Operations at the Canadian Space Agency, who oversees the Conjunction Risk Assessment and Mitigation System (CRAMS). CRAMS helps to mitigate space debris by assessing collision risks with other objects and computing avoidance manoeuvres when appropriate. CRAMS provides important data that allows satellite operators to quickly react to possible danger and the service is shared free of charge with many satellite operators worldwide.

Chair,

We remain committed to national implementation of the 21 Guidelines and in that regard are pleased to provide an update to the implementation report that we submitted during the sixtieth session of the subcommittee concerning Space Traffic Management. As noted in 'For All Humanity – the Future of Outer Space Governance', the UN Secretary General has called on member states to address STM to mitigate the risks posed by a rapidly changing space environment. Recognizing that complimentary discussions are being held as part of the preparatory work for the Summit of the Future, it is clear that having a means to discuss the

scientific and technical aspects of STM within COPUOS would benefit the implementation of Guidelines B.2 and B.3.

We would encourage all delegations to support discussion on best practices and lessons learned in the context of implementing the guidelines by submitting information on national implementation efforts to the Chair of the Working Group. In addition, we would encourage the use of a common format or template for these submissions in order to support the analytical work of the Secretariat.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada remains committed to the development and implementation of rules, norms and responsible behaviours that enhance the safety of space operations and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Such behaviours include actions such as the exchange of information in a timely manner in order to reduce adverse impacts to space operations or to avoid misunderstandings. Furthermore, Canada believes that ratification, implementation and adherence to the international legal framework, and other international instruments such as the LTS and Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, should remain a key priority for nations, and can significantly contribute towards a peaceful and stable space environment.

In 2019, COPUOS adopted the 21 LTS Guidelines – the most significant work towards a safe and sustainable space environment in decades. It is not only that the Guidelines and preamble itself are important, but the near decade of discussion that led to their adoption. Openness, communication and transparency led to these practical recommendations that were agreed by consensus. In continuing to constructively advance the discussion on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities within the current working group, this subcommittee is playing a vital role in ensuring that human activity in outer space is safe, secure and sustainable so that space systems can continue to deliver benefits to humanity into the future.

Much work remains to advance implementation of the existing 21 Guidelines; however we continue to believe that it is important to place equal weight, but equitable time, on all three elements of the work plan and we encourage all members to actively participate in these dynamic and constructive discussions.

Thank you for your kind attention.