



**STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA**

**THE 61<sup>st</sup> SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

**AGENDA ITEM 11:  
LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES**

**To be delivered by: Ms N Majaja**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**Chairperson,**

South Africa is of the view that activities pertaining to the long-term sustainability of outer space are cross-cutting and a major contributor to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Chairperson,**

The deliberate destruction of space objects, for whatever reason, and the resultant proliferation of space debris, particularly in the low-Earth orbits, jeopardises the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. In this regard, South Africa reiterates its concern over space debris; and encourages actors responsible for creating space debris to play an active role in clearing and cleaning activities.

**Chairperson,**

South Africa strongly believes that an interdisciplinary and mutually supportive effort is needed to achieve long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Voluntary responsible behaviour is premised on the understanding that outer space should remain an operationally stable and safe environment that is maintained for peaceful purposes and open for exploration, use and international cooperation by current and future generations.

The LTS guidelines should not create barriers for developing nations in conducting their own outer space activities, but rather mitigate any unintended risks through adequate capacity building.

**Chairperson,**

South Africa re-affirms its support and appreciation for the work conducted under the LTS Working Group; and we reiterate our confidence in Mr Umamaheswaran R. of India, Chair of the Working Group, to sustain the momentum of the work that has already been undertaken by this committee.

South Africa fully supports the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outerspace 2.0 as a continuation of the adopted 21 LTS guidelines, which could be addressed on two non-parallel streams for Policy and regulatory matters, whilst also addressing the operational and technical methods for the compilation of best practices, as it pertains to the implementation of the guidelines regarding the safety and sustainability of space operations.

International cooperation, raising awareness and building capacity are integral components of this work, and remains the cornerstone for the full implementation of these guidelines.

**Chairperson,**

To conclude, South Africa looks forward to vibrant discussions on this very important issue, as we deliberate measures that would enable us to further safeguard the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

I thank you.