



**62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

**3-14 February 2025**

**Statement by Australia**

**Agenda item 10: 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***

Chair,

Australia continues to undertake practical steps to implement the LTS Guidelines, including through legislation and policy, international engagement, and research and development activities.

As an example, Australia implements elements of the LTS Guidelines through its domestic regulatory framework for civil space activities, including under the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018* and associated Rules.

Australia is committed to the continuous improvement of our regulatory framework, in consultation with our space sector and consistent with our international obligations.

### ***Australian sustainability of space activities policy***

Complementary to these efforts, the Australian Government, through the Australian Space Agency (the Agency), is developing an Australian sustainability of space activities policy.

The policy aims to support the long-term viability of the Australian space sector so Australians can continue to benefit from space services for current and future generations.

Development of the policy considers the environmental and social issues and opportunities for the sustainability of civil space activities in Australia, and the role of the Government and other stakeholders in addressing them.

In 2024, the Agency held public consultation to inform the development of the policy. The Agency received responses from individuals and organisations across industry, academia, government, and the public, and is considering this feedback as it continues to develop the policy. We look forward to updating delegations in due course.

### ***APRSAP-30***

Chair,

Australia, through the Agency, was pleased to co-host the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-30) with the Japan Aerospace and Exploration Agency in Perth from 26-29 November 2024. The theme of the forum was ‘*Collaborating to build a sustainable and responsible regional space sector*’, which was explored through a range of events, including a plenary session on ‘Opportunities for a regional approach to space sustainability’.

The forum provided an opportunity to share information on activities relevant to the long-term sustainability of outer space, including with a view to raising awareness and supporting capacity-building.

### ***Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities***

Chair,

Australia strongly supports the aims of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

We were pleased to engage in the recent intersessional meeting of the Working Group, held on 12 and 13 November 2024, to enable further consultation on the identification and study of challenges, and potential recommendations, regarding the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. We note that there appears to be an emerging coalescence around some areas or themes that could be taken

forward as potential future work in this area, and we look forward to discussing these further.

We thank the Chair, as supported by the Secretariat, for convening this intersessional meeting, and for preparing a draft report for the consideration of the Working Group.

We look forward to productive exchanges on the draft report, including with regard to potential recommendations to be included in the final report of the Working Group to be presented to the Subcommittee next year.

Australia continues to extend its full support to the Chair, Mr Umamaheswaran of India, for his leadership of the Working Group.

### ***Closing***

Chair,

The sustainable use of space and supporting access to space is a global issue requiring a global response. Australia is committed to its international obligations and to continued engagement with the Subcommittee to develop and implement rules and norms that support the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space.

Thank you.