

Canada
Agenda Item 10 – Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities
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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty-Second Session, Vienna, 03 – 14 February, 2025

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada thanks the Chair, Mr. Umamaheswaran and the Secretariat, for their commitment to support the work of the Long-term Sustainability Working Group (LTS WG). We sincerely appreciate the non-paper produced by the Chair to guide the intercessional discussion last November. The intercessional was a valuable opportunity to discuss the challenges identified by the Working Group, using the Chair's table as a guiding tool. While many issues were identified in the implementation of the guidelines, valuable insights were raised related to capacity-building and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. We also welcomed the discussion on the format and content of the Working Group's draft report.

Canada thanks the Chair for producing a draft report so quickly following that intercessional discussion, which should enable a robust and detailed discussion during this STSC session. We also welcome the proposal to advance a "middle way" forward to build an agreement around a consensus report and a non-consensus annex.

As outlined in A/AC.105/1258, the work plan for the current Working Group is scheduled to conclude in 2026 with the release of a final report which includes "information on" and "recommendations" related to each of the group's three key elements. This STSC session is an opportunity to shape the final year of work to ensure we move forward constructively in drafting the final report and begin considering a detailed approach to addressing the "recommendations on future activities and work" as

indicated in the agreed workplan. During the 67th session of COPUOS, the LTS WG agreed to undertake a 'challenge-led' process using the Chair's table to approach the discussion of recommendations in a systematic and evidenced-based fashion and we see this as having resulted in an impressive compilation of Member State views.

We recognize that with this significant amount of information comes with limited time to address it within the remaining remit of the current Working Group. The foundation of the final report and the recommendations on future activities and work should be a consensus-based outcome, as these recommendations will serve as the basis for our follow-on work on LTS, which could include a future working group. The final report could also contain a non-consensus annex of suggested new challenges or emerging areas of interest for LTS, which would allow for a broader range of views that could be used to inform the development of proposals for potential new guidelines.

Therefore, as part of the final report, we propose that the following could contribute to a basis for future activities and work:

- Discussion on, and support for, capacity-building opportunities should continue, as a key outcome of this Working Group;
- Voluntary national implementation of the adopted Guidelines should continue, with the reporting and sharing of implementation practices via a UN repository as previously discussed; and,
- Establishment of a new Working Group, as the most pragmatic way to continue these important discussions and build on the recommendations made.

With the growing challenges to the long-term sustainability of the outer space environment and increasing dialogue on space sustainability across several forums, a future Long-term Sustainability Working Group would also ensure this important discussion continues within the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

A future working group could consider organizing itself thematically, to advance the key challenges to sustainability, particularly those outlined in the Pact for the Future such as further addressing space debris mitigation and space traffic coordination. A follow-on Long-term Sustainability Working Group could provide for the development of a future-focused framework to address the recommendations on novel activities and the residual work from LTS 2.0 with COPUOS being the central UN body for discussions on the peaceful use of space.

Canada looks forward to engaging with Member States over the course of this session to further discuss this proposal.

Chair,

As we can all agree, long term sustainability of space activities is essential as space increasingly continues to provide services and benefits to all on Earth. In 2025, we are pleased to share that Canada will be the host of Space Operations 2025 from May 26 to 30. The theme of the event is “towards space sustainability” and we encourage all delegations to attend this major event.

Thank you.