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بعثة جمهورية مصر العربية لدى الأمم المتحدة و المنظمات الدولية في فيينا

Statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Scientific and Technical Subcommittee 3- 14 February 2025

Agenda Item 10: Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space

Mme. Chair,

Egypt welcomes the ongoing discussion on updating and reviewing States Members experiences on the LTS guidelines and reaffirm its continued efforts to voluntary apply these guidelines based on its national priorities. Egypt also appreciates India's leadership in driving the discussions of the LTS working group and looks forward to a balanced report of its recommendations and the way forward that should safeguard the voluntary, practical, and operational nature of these guidelines.

Mme Chair,

Egypt believes that any endeavour to explore and utilize outer space must adhere to the **principles and objectives of international law, United Nations treaties, including the Outer Space Treaty.** All outer space activities have to be coordinated under the auspices of the UN in order to be inclusive, universal, and consensual. and aim to benefit us all.

Outer space is a common heritage of humankind, and a common asset that belongs to humanity as a whole. The COPUOS with its two Subcommittees, is the only specialized multilateral forum under the auspices of the UN General Assembly that has a clear mandate to comprehensively address all matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space.

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Egypt emphasizes that the main principles of relevant United Nations treaties and the peaceful uses of outer space should drive our discussions on emerging and evolving issues including the "Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space" as well as the "utilization of Space Resources" and "space traffic management".

Egypt also notes the increased role of non-governmental organizations in space activities and reiterates the relevance of Article six of the Outer Space Treaty in this regard, particularly the responsibility of States Parties to the Treaty for national activities in outer space, and that the activities of non-governmental organizations in outer space shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty.

Mme Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Addressing the growing challenge of space debris is critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space, particularly for developing countries striving to establish their presence in this domain. The increasing congestion of Earth's orbits with defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, and fragmentation debris poses significant risks to operational spacecraft, endangering the progress of nations with emerging space programs that lack the resources to mitigate such threats.

It is imperative that the global community adopts measures to safeguard the space environment, including establishing **innovative financial compensation framework** for damages incurred to space objects of developing nations. One potential mechanism to explore is a **levy or insurance system**, whereby major spacefaring nations, nontraditional donors, and private sector actors contribute to a fund that supports affected states and finances active debris removal initiatives. Such mechanism and fund can be administrated by the UN office of Outer Space Affairs.

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By integrating such measures into the broader governance of space activities, we can promote a fair and sustainable future where all nations—regardless of their economic standing—can access and benefit from the opportunities that space offers.

Thank you, Mme. Chair