

ITU, Item 10

COPUOS-STSC 62, 2025 Item 10 - Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Statement to be delivered by the ITU Representative, **Ms. Veronique Glaude**

[ENGLISH version]

Thank you Madam Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to address [again] the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS to present you the progress of the International Telecommunication Union activities related to Space Sustainability.

--- Madam Chair

In the latest ITU-R Working Party 4A Report, it is indicated that the sustainable use of radio-frequency spectrum and associated non-GSO satellite-orbits resources by space radiocommunication services **may be defined** as the ability to maintain their use indefinitely into the future in a manner that (1) respects their status as limited natural resources which must be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, and (2) realizes the objectives of equitable access.

--- Madam Chair

In response to Resolution ITU-R 74 and the decisions of World Radiocommunication Conference 2023, and **in accordance with** Resolutions 219 and 218 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, the ITU started to implement the decisions made by the Member states for the 2024-2027 study cycle with five (5) activities:

1. The ITU-R Study Group 4 on satellite services progressed in 2024 on the **creation of a Handbook** on best practices for the sustainable use of frequencies and associated non-GSO orbits by space radiocommunication services. The best practices may be grouped into the same four categories as

the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of the Outer Space Activities of the COPUOS.

--- The contributions to the next session in May 2025 can be submitted to the ITU-R.

2. The ITU-R Study Group 4 also agreed on the **development of another Handbook** on Satellite Communications and Technologies that will cover fixed-satellite service, broadcast-satellite service, mobile-satellite service and radiodetermination-satellite service. The handbook may also describe space debris mitigation mechanisms including current space laws and ITU-R Recommendations.

--- A preliminary table of content is available. Contributions submission is opened to ITU-R members. Other organizations or entities can manifest their interest, by providing their contact details to the handbook Editor or to the Study Group 4 Councillor.

3. In addition to these two handbooks, as instructed, the Radiocommunication Bureau developed a web **portal** dedicated to space sustainability called **ITU Space Sustainability Gateway**. It is already contributing to dissemination and exchange of relevant information among space stakeholders.

--- The Bureau receives contributions of links to materials with a view to enhance usefulness and comprehensiveness of the portal.

4. And at the Union level, the ITU started to raise awareness and led a **forum** dedicated to the Space Sustainability on 10 and 11 September 2024 to gather space actors and ITU delegates to exchange views on how they wish ITU to envisage Space Sustainability. In addition to the organisation of a second forum, ITU also launched in 2025 the “**ITU SpaceConnect**” virtual monthly

activity. This initiative is designed to raise awareness on key aspects of space sustainability from the spectrum and orbits resources perspective.

---. The Forums and the virtual series are available to all public.

--- Madam Chair

In closing, ITU intends to contribute to advance the long-term sustainable use of the spectrum and orbits resources and looks forward to a continued collaboration towards a sustainable future in space.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, thank you for your attention.

References and links:

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/study-groups/rsg4/rwp4a/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/study-groups/rsg4/Pages/satcomtechhandbook.aspx>

<https://www.itu.int/space-sustainability/>

<https://www.itu.int/ssf/>

<https://www.itu.int/space-connect/>

- ITU-R Working Party 4A Chair's Report of November 2024 – annex 17,
- Resolution ITU-R 74 of the Radiocommunication Assembly, 2023, Dubai
- Decisions of World Radiocommunication Conference 2023, Dubai, included in the minutes of the Plenary (Documents 526 and 528 of WRC-23),
- Resolutions 219 and 218 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022, Bucharest.