# Long term Sustainability of Outer Space activities

### Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

India has always been a strong advocate of peaceful and sustainable utilisation of outer space and contributes to the efforts of Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities through sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from the voluntary national implementation of the UN adopted LTS guidelines.

#### Madam Chair,

In line with the Indian Space Policy 2023, the Norms, Guidelines, and Procedures (NGP) has been brought out by Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) in 2024, which includes criteria for granting authorization of space activities, specifically related to space situational awareness and long term sustainability. India regularly submits information on Indian space objects, including those re-entering the atmosphere or undergoing significant orbital relocation, to the UN as per Registration Convention. ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS<sup>4</sup>OM) concerts the efforts to ensure the safety and sustainability of Indian space activities.

#### Madam Chair,

Apart from collision avoidance analysis for launch vehicle and satellites with other space objects, the required coordination and data exchanges are carried out for spaceflight safety to resolve any close conjunction between Indian space assets and other active satellites. We highlight a few recent measures undertaken towards better compliance with the internationally accepted guidelines on space debris mitigation. Scatsat-1, a Low-Earth Orbit small satellite, was de-orbited to reduce its orbital lifetime completely depleting the residual fuel in the process. For PSLV-C58 and PSLV-C60 missions, the upper stages were deorbited to 350 km so that their post-mission orbital life limited to only a few months. For all the other rocket stages launched during the year 2024, the post-mission orbital life is expected to be less than 10 years. After payload injection, all of the upper stages were passivated to minimise post-mission break up risks.

# Madam Chair,

India contributes significantly in the UNCOPUOS Long term sustainability working group deliberations. Given the sky rocketing space traffic, there is an alarming increase in the number space objects transiting the orbital region around 400 km altitude preferred for human spaceflight. In an earlier submitted CRP, India proposed

to introduce new LTS guideline for conducting space activities in the vicinity of this region to mitigate potential risks to human missions. We request other members to peruse this proposal and look forward to their support.

## Madam Chair,

For a highly dynamic outer space landscape, preserving the long-term sustainability is imperative to effectively harness its immense potential for peaceful utilisation and improve the quality of life for all humanity. India looks forward to continued exchange of views, sharing of experiences and lessons learnt during the implementation of LTS guidelines with other Member States and contribute to charting a roadmap to undeterred, sustainable space activities.

Thank you, Madam Chair and distinguished delegates.