



STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA

**THE 62nd SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF
THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

AGENDA ITEM 10

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

3 14 February 2025

Delivered by Mr Itumeleng Makoloi

Madam Chair,

South Africa believes that activities pertaining to the long-term sustainability of outer space cut across all aspects of UNCOPUOS work. The issues of long term sustainability remain key as activities in outerspace continue to increase.

Madam Chair

We acknowledge the work of all delegations in reaching agreement on the terms of reference, method of work and the five-year workplan of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. We look forward to the deliberations of the Working Group during this session and express our confidence in Mr Umamaheswaran R. of India as Chair of the Working Group to take the work forward during this session.

As a developing country, South Africa is cognisant that outer space activities are essential tools for realizing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The long-term sustainability of outer space activities are important for current and emerging participants in space activities, particularly, developing countries.

South Africa, is particularly encouraged by the focus of the workplan on sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the adopted guidelines and raising awareness and enhancing capacity, particularly amongst emerging space nations and developing countries

Chairperson,

South Africa supports the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability as a continuation of the adopted 21 LTS guidelines, which could be addressed on two non-parallel streams for Policy and regulatory matters, while addressing the operational and technical methods for the compilation of best practices pertaining to the implementation of the guidelines regarding the safety and sustainability of space operations. International cooperation, raising-awareness and capacity are integral components of this work and remains the cornerstone for the full implementation of these guidelines.

As a nation reliant on space-based services for socioeconomic growth, South Africa supports international efforts to mitigate space debris, ensure equitable access, and uphold space as a shared resource. We emphasize the importance of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, including the safety of space operations. South Africa wishes to reiterate that the LTS guidelines should not create barriers for developing nations in conducting their own outer space activities but rather mitigate any unintended risks through adequate capacity building as an integral part of the guidelines. We hope the adoption and implementation of the guidelines will provide the required assurances that future generations will continue to enjoy the benefits of outer space.

In this regard, South Africa wishes the Chair of the Working Group success in maintaining the momentum on the work of the committee and urges all members to work together in advancing the objectives of the working group and the immediate implementation of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the 21 agreed Guidelines for LTS.

Chairperson,

South Africa looks forward to the report of the Working Group which should address the compilation of national implementation efforts of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines by Member States and international organisations with permanent observer status. It should also look at measures to address challenges identified and related study of possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

Thank You.