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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
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Draft report

Addendum

III. Space debris

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [79/87](#), the Subcommittee considered agenda item 5, entitled “Space debris”.
2. The representatives of Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under agenda item 5. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States. A statement was made by the observer for ESA on behalf of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC). The observers for COSPAR also made a statement.
3. The Subcommittee had before it the following:
 - (a) Notes by the Secretariat on research on space debris, the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to the collision of such objects with space debris, contained in replies received from Member States and international organizations ([A/AC.105/C.1/128](#), [A/AC.105/C.1/128/Add.1](#) and [A/AC.105/C.1/2025/CRP.8](#));
 - (b) Conference room paper containing the IADC report on the status of the space debris environment ([A/AC.105/C.1/2025/CRP.10](#));
 - (c) Conference room paper containing the IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines ([A/AC.105/C.1/2025/CRP.9](#)).
4. The Subcommittee heard the following scientific and technical presentations:
 - (a) “Space debris mitigation regulations and technical standards of China”, by the representative of China;
 - (b) “Space Road Right and the principles for the avoidance of on-orbit collision”, by the representative of China;
 - (c) “2024 space debris activities in France”, by the representative of France;



- (d) “Progress on (laser-)optical technologies and retroreflectors for space traffic management”, by the representative of Germany;
- (e) “Zero Debris Mission”, by the representative of India;
- (f) “Global implementation of active debris removal”, by the representative of Japan;
- (g) “Current stage of space situational awareness development in Kazakhstan”, by the representative of Kazakhstan;
- (h) “Status and plans for space situational awareness in the Republic of Korea”, by the representative of the Republic of Korea;
- (i) “Results of monitoring by Roscosmos of the key events in the near-Earth orbit in 2024”, by the representative of the Russian Federation;
- (j) “Methodological approach to assessing the impact of space debris and meteoroids on orbital vehicles taking into account the cumulative impact of small-size fragments”, by the representative of the Russian Federation;
- (k) “International airborne observation campaign dedicated to the re-entry of the European Space Agency’s Cluster–Salsa satellite”, by the representative of Slovakia;
- (l) “A call for action from Tunisia on international regulatory frameworks”, by the representative of Tunisia;
- (m) “Near-Earth space observation activities in Ukraine in 2024”, by the representative of Ukraine;
- (n) “Update on the European Space Agency’s space sustainability efforts”, by the observer for ESA.

5. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the endorsement by the General Assembly, in its resolution [62/217](#), of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had proved vital in controlling the space debris problem for the safety of future space missions.

6. The Subcommittee also noted with satisfaction that many States and international intergovernmental organizations were implementing space debris mitigation measures consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee ([A/74/20](#), annex II) and/or the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of IADC, and were using those guidelines, relevant ISO standards and the ESA Space Debris Mitigation Requirements as reference points in their regulatory frameworks for national space activities. Furthermore, the Subcommittee noted that a number of States had harmonized their national space debris mitigation standards with those guidelines and standards, and that some other States cooperated under the space surveillance and tracking support framework funded by the European Union.

7. The Subcommittee noted that IADC, whose initial work had served as the basis for the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee, had updated its own Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines in January 2025.

8. The Subcommittee expressed concern at the increasing amount of space debris and encouraged States, agencies, industries and academic institutions that had not yet done so to consider voluntarily implementing the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee and to work to preserve the space environment.

9. The Subcommittee agreed that Member States and international organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should continue to be invited to provide reports on research on space debris, the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board, problems relating to the collision of such space objects with space debris and the ways in which debris mitigation guidelines were being implemented.

10. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that States had undertaken a number of actions to mitigate space debris, such as improving the design of launch vehicles, engines and spacecraft, developing special software, passivation, life extension, end-of-life operations and disposal. The Subcommittee noted the evolving technologies related to the in-orbit robotic servicing of satellites, the extension of satellite lifespans and active space debris removal.
11. The Subcommittee noted the development and application of new technologies and ongoing research related to space debris mitigation; the protection of space systems from space debris; means of limiting the creation of additional space debris; re-entry and collision avoidance techniques; the measurement, characterization, continuous monitoring and modelling of space debris; the prediction, early warning and notification of space debris re-entry and collision; and the evolution of space debris in orbit and fragmentation.
12. Some delegations expressed the view that the major contributors to space debris must assume their historical responsibility for the mitigation and removal of that debris, and, in that context, stressed the importance of not causing new space actors to be overburdened by the consequences of the historical activities of established space actors. Some delegations expressed the view that the increase in space debris posed a serious risk to the safety, security and sustainability of space activities, and that international and national activities were necessary.
13. Some delegations expressed concern at the rise of satellite megaconstellations and space debris and urged major contributors to take responsibility for debris mitigation and removal under an international framework.
14. Some delegations expressed the view that the issue of space debris should continue to be treated as a priority with a view to mitigating the creation of space debris and preventing collisions. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that there was a need for developing countries to have access to technologies, equipment and methodologies for the measurement, monitoring and characterization of space debris and other space objects, and called for increased cooperation in addressing the issue of space debris.
15. The view was expressed that it was necessary to develop a legal definition of the term “space debris”.
16. The view was expressed that it was necessary to adopt universally recognized international standards for managing the life cycle of spacecraft, including minimizing their impact on orbital space.
17. Some delegations recognized the importance of space situational awareness for space sustainability.
18. Some delegations expressed the view that space debris remediation efforts, such as active debris removal, and satellite servicing operations that can extend the useful lifetime of satellites in orbit, were effective in addressing the issue of space debris.
19. The view was expressed that active debris removal must be rigorously guided, that that approach should not create additional hazards, that ownership rights were necessary for debris removal and the necessary permissions needed to be obtained, and that the post-mission risks should be assessed.
20. Some delegations noted the increasing number of signatories of the Zero Debris Charter, which was aimed at achieving the sustainable use of outer space by 2030 through concrete steps to mitigate the production of new orbital debris and remediate existing debris.
21. Some delegations expressed the view that the Office for Outer Space Affairs could play a pivotal role in establishing a global cooperative platform for enhancing international cooperation to address space debris.