



61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

29 January – 9 February 2024

Statement by Australia

Agenda item 11: Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates,

Australia is committed to the development and implementation of rules and norms that seek to support the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space.

The Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines) provide an effective framework to support this outcome.

Implementation of the LTS Guidelines

Chair,

Australia continues to undertake practical steps to implement the LTS Guidelines.

Looking ahead, Australia is developing a structured approach to monitoring its implementation of the LTS Guidelines. As well as providing a picture of Australia's activities in implementing the LTS Guidelines, a broader objective of this work is to identify practices, and potential gaps for further consideration, in Australia's implementation of the LTS Guidelines.

Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Chair,

Australia strongly supports the aims of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

Australia is of the view that the sharing of experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation is key to supporting awareness raising and capacity building in implementation of the LTS Guidelines as a whole.

In this regard, we welcome the Working Group discussions that have occurred to date on experiences in implementing the LTS Guidelines.

We note the diversity of approaches taken to implementation, and look forward to learning more about these approaches, including challenges faced and measures considered to address them, in meetings of the Working Group during this session.

Similarly, Australia welcomes the agreement reached by the Working Group at last year's session of the Subcommittee to establish an easily accessible and searchable open-source repository of information and views on the elements included in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Working Group's terms of reference. We note the repository's potential as a rich source of information and tool for

building transparency and capacity with regard to implementation of the LTS Guidelines.

Australia welcomes the workshop of the Working Group, which aims to raise awareness of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and support capacity-building. Additionally, we note the workshop represents an opportunity to collect views from entities that might not normally participate directly in the work of the Working Group.

We also look forward to the commencement of productive exchanges on potential recommendations to be included in the final report of the Working Group to be presented to the Subcommittee in 2026.

Australia continues to extend its full support to the Chair, Dr Umamaheswaran of India, in his efforts to guide the Working Group in delivering on its objectives.

Conclusion

Chair,

Australia welcomes this opportunity to continue engaging with the Working Group and the Subcommittee to develop and implement rules and norms that support the safety, stability and sustainability of activities in outer space.

Thank you.