

**61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**Agenda Item No. 06 “Space Debris”**

*To be delivered by*

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Thank you, Chair.  
Distinguished colleagues,

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chair, and to the dedicated staff at the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) for the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

The Philippines recognizes space debris as a global concern that requires urgent attention and proactive management. As space activities continue to expand, bringing with them numerous benefits and opportunities, they also introduce challenges in ensuring the safe and sustainable use of outer space. This extends to understanding both the short- and long-term implications of space debris in low Earth orbit, as well as the impact of re-entering debris on the Earth’s surface.

As an emerging space capable nation, we would like to reiterate the Philippines’ full support and commitment to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and the Space 2030 Agenda.

Chair,

The Philippines, through the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), created the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Orbital Debris Protocols, a composition of the relevant government departments tasked to formulate the appropriate responses to space vehicle launches and reentries from outer space activities that could potentially pose risks to the country. The TWG conducted an Orbital Debris Scenario Planning workshop in which participants from various Philippine government agencies provided the necessary information that will help in formulating the country’s response protocol.

Also, in support of space debris mitigation, PhilSA led a space situational awareness training workshop in collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). Through the workshop, experts were able to share knowledge on space situational awareness through the use of software tools for debris risk assessment, mitigation, and collision avoidance, among others.

The Philippines, as a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN, engages in activities to forge space cooperation in ASEAN. We hosted and participated in a regional workshop on space situational awareness and space traffic management which resulted in a concept note that was later endorsed to the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI). The Philippines appreciates the active participation and support from the delegates of other ASEAN Members States in the workshop and hopes to sustain and expand these engagements further.

We recognize the role of regional cooperation platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) in providing avenues for discussion on space-related topics or issues among different stakeholders from both government and private sector, as well as from academic institutions. Particularly, the APRSAF working groups contribute to promoting safety and cooperation in conducting space activities, as well as in recognizing the importance of addressing space debris for ensuring the sustainable use of outer space.

In conclusion, as the global space community continues to push the boundaries of knowledge in outer space that bring scientific and technological gains, inspiration, hope and productive benefits to humankind, we must also come together to address attendant challenges such as space debris. Through international cooperation, information sharing, and continuous effort in research and development, we believe that we will arrive at innovative and sustainable solutions to reducing or eliminating space debris threats and thus help preserve the outer space environment for future generations.

The Philippines reiterates our full support of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of COPUOS and commends the efforts being made by member agencies of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee.

Thank you, Chair.