

Agenda item 6: Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful purposes

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates

India strongly advocates peaceful uses of outer space and recognises that space is a global common to be utilised for the benefits of all humankind. India is party to all the major international treaties and regulations related to outer space, including Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention. India is also proactively involved in the activities of the STSC Working Group on Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

Mr. Chairman,

India implements a number of Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs) with regard to space activities. These include collaboration with other space faring nations for exchange of best practices and data sharing for spaceflight safety, pre-launch notifications, and registration of space objects with the UN registry.

India is an active member of several International bodies dealing with Space Situational Awareness, Space Traffic Management and safety of spaceflight. India contributes to the activities of Inter Agency Space Debris Coordination (IADC) committee, IAA Space Debris Working Group, ISO working group and IAF Space Traffic Management Subcommittee.

India adopts measures for space debris mitigation that are in accordance with UN and IADC recommended guidelines to the maximum extent possible and practicable. The mitigation measures adopted by India include passivation of upper stages, Launch COLLision Avoidance (COLA) assessments, Close Approach Analyses for operational satellites, post mission disposal of GEO satellites to super-synchronous graveyard orbits, and end-of-life de-orbiting of LEO satellites and rocket stages to minimise their post mission presence in LEO. Continual and dedicated efforts are taken up to improve the compliance level with these mitigation guidelines.

India recognises that Space Situational Awareness (SSA) is an integral part of safe and sustainable operations. Efforts are underway to set up space object observational facilities, namely radars and optical telescopes. A dedicated SSA control centre has already been established to collate all SSA efforts in India and to act as a hub for the relevant data exchanges and collaborations.

Mr. Chairman,

India has unlocked its space sector to private entities which entails monitoring and regulation of space activities to ensure responsible behavior by all Indian space actors. A suitable mechanism for this purpose is being firmed up through the recently established entity, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe).

In conclusion, India will continue to take all possible measures to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes. India encourages collaborations and information exchange amongst the member states in cognizance of the fact that cooperation and transparency are key to ensure safe and sustainable operations in space.

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