

Statement Netherlands regarding agenda item 6 (Maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes)

Delivered by: Mr. Alfred Visser, Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands

Dear Mr. Chair,

The Netherlands wishes to take the opportunity to discuss this agenda-item and underline the importance of measures to reduce the effects of space debris in outer space and to use outer space only for peaceful purposes.

Prognoses regarding the continuing increase of space debris are alarming.

This trend will continue unless we act now.

This means not only post mission disposal measures have to be taken, but also actively removing space debris must be part of the solution.

To secure sustainable use of outer space for current and future generations, adopting the measures included in the Space Debris Compendium is important.

But it might not be enough. The Netherlands therefore urges States to take this issue seriously.

This includes not only securing the safe decommissioning of space objects, but also implementing space traffic management measures. Such measures are critical given the current growth of the mega constellations in the Low Earth Orbit.

In this respect I also would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all States, to halt the intentional and unnecessary creation of space debris.

We consider such behavior irresponsible and detrimental to sustainability, safety and security in outer space.

We all depend on satellites - for our economy, science and security. Space debris, whether created intentionally or not, poses a hazard to objects in space due to the risk of collision.

The international community has a collective responsibility to tackle this problem. The Netherlands strongly believes that we need to strengthen international agreements in ensuring safe and responsible space behavior in outer space.

Taking into account the existing threats and the radical increase of activities in outer space over the last decades, international cooperation and dialogue is essential.

The Netherlands remains ready and willing to work with all member states in maintaining peace and security in outer space, to preserve the space environment so future generations can also benefit from exploration and use of outer space.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.