

**Agenda Item 11 – General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

Mme Chair, thank you for giving me the floor. The Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to take this opportunity to speak to this agenda-item to underscore the importance of measures to remediate the effects of space debris in outer space.

Prognoses as to the development of space debris continue to be alarming, and it remains urgent to take measures. Therefore, my Government will repeat its call for action. To address the threat to the safe and sustainable use of outer space caused by space debris, States should not only implement post-mission disposal measures, but also implement the active removal of space debris. The adoption of the Space Debris Compendium, as well as the Long Term Sustainability Guidelines are an important step in the right direction, but it is not enough. The Netherlands has implemented space debris measures in its national space legislation and all licensees need to comply with the measures which are included in the Space Debris Compendium to ensure the long-term sustainability of the space environment. The Netherlands would therefore again like to urge States to take this issue seriously. This includes not only securing safe decommissioning of space objects but also space traffic management measures. I might add that the Netherlands is continuously reviewing its national space legislation, to ensure that it remains up to date and that it is able to address these issues.

Mme Chair, my Government remains concerned with the intentional creation of space debris as result of outer space activities, including ASAT tests. We state again that this includes not only the deliberate, and unnecessary, destruction of a space object in outer space, but also the incidental, but preventable, loss of control over a space object. As my Government has stated repeatedly, this would constitute a threat to the safety and sustainable use of outer space, and would not be in line with Guideline 4 of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines. We would like to call on all spacefaring nations to take their responsibilities with respect to space debris mitigation and remediation measures.

In addition, the Netherlands would like to raise another, related, issue that causes concern. The pollution of outer space is not only caused by space debris in the form of objects and parts thereof, but also by light pollution. Especially with the presence of mega-constellations, it becomes increasingly important to manage light- and radio-emissions, to ensure that optical and radio space observations remains possible. In the light of this, the Kingdom of the Netherlands would reconfirm its support for space debris remediation, including not only measures that prevent the increase of space debris, but also measures with a view to reducing space debris already in outer space.

I thank you for your attention.