

**Agenda Item No.11: General Exchange of Information and Views on Legal Mechanisms relating to Space Debris Mitigation and Remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

**Madam Chair Person and Distinguished delegates,**

With the ever-increasing number of launches and the ongoing expansion of large constellations of satellites, technical activities for remedial and mitigation to counter the threats of space debris should be adequately complemented by effective legal and policy approaches to ensure long-term sustainability of space activities. India has been supporting all the well-studied activities of Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS for safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities and will continue to engage constructively in that direction.

**Madam Chair Person,**

India is fully committed to its obligations undertaken in the relevant treaties on outer space. India voluntarily implements UN and IADC recommended guidelines for space debris mitigation to the maximum extent possible and practicable while undertaking continual efforts to improve the level of compliance with these guidelines. The implemented measures include passivation of upper stages, Launch COLLision Avoidance (COLA) assessments, Space Object Proximity Analyses (SOPA) for operational satellites, post mission disposal of GEO satellites to super-synchronous graveyard orbits, and end-of-life de-orbiting of LEO satellites/rocket stages to minimise their post mission lifetime.

Space Situational Awareness (SSA) is now an integral and indispensable part of safe and sustainable space operation. Efforts have been initiated to enhance space debris observation capabilities and to synergise space debris related technical studies, analysis and mitigation efforts across India, and a dedicated SSA control centre is already setup. In order to meet the goals of long-term sustainability of outer space activities in the context of opening up of space

sector to private players, necessary policy initiatives related to SSA for abidance by all Indian space actors has been undertaken. The measures for space debris mitigation addressed within the policy include trackability, maneuverability, capability for on-orbit break-up avoidance and post mission disposal.

**Madam Chair Person,**

India has been promoting and proactively undertaking transparency and confidence building measures for space debris mitigation and remediation which include inter-agency coordination on relevant data exchange for collision avoidance, pre-launch notifications, registering space objects in the UN, and active participation in various technical fora, such as IADC, IAA Space Debris Working Group and IAF Space Traffic Management Subcommittee activities. India has been also collaborating with other space faring nations for the exchange of best practices and data sharing with regards to monitoring of space environment and space debris mitigation.

India recognises the potential benefits of implementing UN guidelines on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and shall continue to steadfastly pursue our efforts to implement them in our space programmes and projects. India also encourages all space actors to implement these guidelines to preserve outer space for unhindered access and utilisation by future generations of humankind.

**Thank you Madam Chair Person.**

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