



**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
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**Statement**

by

**The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

at

**The Sixty-Second Session of  
The Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS**

on

**Agenda item 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**

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*“In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful”*

**Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates;**

Nowadays, with growing dependence of human daily life on space related services and applications, the safety of space systems along with the protection of space environment, as a precious common heritage, is turning into an increasingly concerning issue. Space debris, which account as a considerable portion of orbital mass, are threatening our properties including space objects, human ( astronauts ) lives and even lives and facilities on the ground in case of surviving in Earth's atmospheric re-entry.

According to a number of technical predictions, critical object density at some altitudes, is about to result in embarking a process of collisional cascading. In other words, the low Earth Orbit is on the verge of becoming too crowded for comfort and highly saturated for free operation.

The nonstop and accelerating deployment of large constellations in closer layer of earth orbit on one hand, and having no clear practical plan for disposal on the another are further exacerbating this the concerning situation. In this regard, the legal norms prohibiting measures must be promptly applied to stop any kind of operations resulting in generating numerous long-lived space debris.

Referring to the latest trends, the space debris removal by enabling countries is not going as expected as the rate of launches exceeds the rate of space objects reentering Earth's atmosphere. At present the current Post Mission Disposal compliance rate in LEO, hardly exceeds 20 or 30 percent.

**Madam Chair person,**

From our perspective, the best solution coping with debris challenge is, not to generate it in the first place, and minimize future debris sources, including deployment of large number of satellites as one of the most potentially debris creating source. Like any other environmental issues, it is easier and far less expensive to prevent pollution than to clean it up later.

To support this idea there is no doubt that some debris removal techniques are highly concerning. In fact, the big issue is that any successful technology that can remove an existing piece of debris can also be used as an anti-satellite weapon. This dual characteristic made ADR a sensitive capability and presents a hurdle to reaching agreement between states for its implementation.

In this sense, political intentions should be synchronized with technological capabilities during an ADR system operation. Furthermore, removing any space

object without prior permission or consent of the State owner is still remains among the greatest concerns.

**Madam Chair,**

Since the space debris has been created by the past operations of the developed space-faring nations, they definitely have certain responsibility to comply with mitigation and remediation measures. To be clearer, we believe on common but differentiated responsibility among all space fairing nations.

With about one million pieces in size of 1-10 centimeters, space debris is a major area for environmental concern, which roughly can be regarded as falling into the scope of harmful contamination.

It should be highlighted that most space governing treaties, do not encompass comprehensive measures covering all aspects of space debris such as environmental protection and liability, or politically charging of the intentionally destruction of space objects,

From critical standpoint, one can confirm that the main approach of debris-related guidelines basically focuses on State sovereignty and individualism rather than reflecting environmental protection. Therefore, we believe that adopting and promoting a coordinated approach in this regard, can effectively tackle the issue of space debris.

**Madam Chair,**

last, but not least, one noteworthy point to be highlighted is that, even though individually performing related measures, including space object monitoring, risk assessment, collision avoidance and other mitigating measures are all is a must, but the more efficient approach to alleviate debris problem is interactive and mutual cooperation in sharing accurate data, knowledge, experiences as well as expanding capabilities, developing technical resources, modified predicting models and sophisticated facilities in order to reach on a global synergy and overall mobility, provided that such effective collaboration, would taken place under a reliable, trustful, and transparent umbrella, by the COPUOS.

**Thank you, Madam Chair person.**