

United Kingdom, Item 12

General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

The UK recognises the crucial role that non-legally binding instruments play in advancing international co-operation, consensus building and mobilising action from states and other actors.

At the Scientific and Technical Committee, the UK highlighted the continuing value of the 1992 Nuclear Power Sources (NPS) Principles and the Safety Framework to member States when developing and applying their national systems while recognising further work on the safety aspects of space NPS systems needs to be done.

Madam Chair,

The UK considers the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines to be a significant non legally binding instrument on outer space and has prioritised their implementation on a national and international level since their adoption.

The UK has been the sole funder of an UNOOSA project, entitled 'Awareness-raising and Capacity-building Related to the Implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines)', since 2021.

As delegates will be aware, in Phase 2 of the project, UNOOSA prepared a stakeholder study report based on experiences of States in implementing the LTS guidelines. The stakeholder study report was based on the information collected during 37 interviews with State members of COPUOS and 5 interviews with international intergovernmental organisations. The report focused on anonymised analysis of those interviews and was published as an open access resource last year.

There will be a Phase 3 of the project this year where UNOOSA will create an open access e-learning tool to help facilitate and improve understanding about the LTS Guidelines as well as improve their implementation. 4 virtual events, on sections A-D of the guidelines, will be hosted with a variety of speakers.

We would like to highlight that the first event on section A of the Guidelines, Policy and Regulatory Framework for Space Activities, will take place on Wednesday the 5th of April at 2pm Central European Time. UNOOSA has sent invitations to this event to states and other parties

and the UK hopes it will be a useful multi-stakeholder discussion. The UK is committed to supporting regional and national regulatory and policy implementation of the Guidelines through this event and the three additional events taking place this year. You can find more information on this at spacesustainability.unoosa.org.

We are proud to be working with UNOOSA on this initiative to advance the LTS Guidelines and helping to develop capabilities in nations that are starting out on their journey to space.

Finally Chair, let me once again thank the Secretariat and the staff of UNOOSA for their hard work to date in facilitating awareness-raising and capacity-building in relation to the LTS guidelines.

Thank you Madam Chair.