

Canadian Statement
Agenda Item 13 – Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
Statement delivered by: Eleonora Agnew

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-seventh Session, Vienna, Feb 3-14, 2020

Madame Chair,

Canada would like to commend the Committee on its tremendous work in achieving consensus on the preamble and the 21 guidelines. This consensus set of technical, best-practice guidelines, demonstrates the ability of all COPUOS members to work together to preserve space for the benefit of all humankind. This effort has been an excellent and needed exercise in space diplomacy, which has contributed to building transparency and confidence amongst member states. Moreover, Canada applauds the United Nations General Assembly for the adoption of Resolution 74/82. This measure will allow the Committee to continue pursuing work on this important initiative.

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

Canada is proud to have had such an active role in the LTS process and we remain strongly committed to working with all member states to identify best practices for the national implementation of the preamble and 21 guidelines. During this session, Canada will continue to work with all Member States to establish the next working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. We look forward to discussing and taking part in the development of a terms of reference, method of work and dedicated work plan as we continue to forge ahead with national implementation - an important step towards maintaining the space environment for peaceful use and exploration by current and future generations.

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

Preserving the outer space environment is very important to Canada. The Canadian Space Agency is consulting broadly across government to determine our current compliance with the guidelines. In our initial assessment, although existing domestic legislation is compliant with a number of guidelines, we still have work to do to ensure national implementation of all guidelines. We look forward to working with other COPUOS Member States, under the new working group, to reach a common understanding on the implementation of the guidelines. These exercises will provide us with a clearer picture of what our nation and others are

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currently undertaking and will offer us a glimpse of the gaps that need to be further examined and addressed. It is our belief that, through the sharing of best practices in the implementation of these guidelines, we will develop new guidelines that will shape the future work of the next LTS working group. It is with this in mind that Canada, along with Japan and the United States, submitted a proposal for a LTS 2.0 working group structure and workplan that will facilitate continued efforts.

Canada believes, that it is only through the national implementation of the guidelines, that we will give true legitimacy to the work done by the LTS working group. To this end, we feel the objective of the new working group should be to: (a) identify, compile and review relevant practices and procedures to support the practical implementation of the 21 consensus guidelines by States Member of the Committee and related national and international organizations; and (b) propose recommendations for further consideration by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee which would strengthen international cooperation in the implementation of the 21 consensus guidelines, as well as identifying and studying challenges for the consideration of possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

Finally, Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

Canada believes effective national implementation will reinforce the role of COPUOS as the most effective multilateral forum for the advancement of practical cooperation in the peaceful uses and exploration of outer space for the benefit of all. Therefore, our delegation encourages all member states to press ahead with their national implementation of the guidelines, and we look forward to sharing implementation best practices in the new working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

Thank you for your attention.