

# India

## Agenda Item 13

### Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

#### **Madam Chairperson and distinguished delegates,**

Many new countries, and also industries, have started their space programmes and have satellites in orbit. 'Sustainability' is of more importance today, than at any time in the past. The Indian delegation appreciates the work carried out by the Working Group on LTS in finalizing the preamble and 21 guidelines contained in the document A/AC.105/C.1/L.366. We support the opinion that the focus should now be on 'implementation' of the agreed guidelines. At the same time, we also believe that the document could serve as a good basis for a compendium covering the entire range of space activities. This will provide a level playing field to emerging space faring nations and preserve the fruits for the future generations.

#### **Madam Chairperson,**

The Indian delegation has been supportive of the work carried out by the Working Group on "long-term sustainability of outer space activities". The Indian delegation has taken note of the three proposals for the new Working Group on LTS. The Indian delegation has also submitted a proposal for the nomination of a bureau member for the new Working Group. We feel the responsibility of contributing more actively towards this important activity. We note the emphasis laid on 'implementation' of guidelines in the three proposals and agree to share with this Committee our efforts and steps towards implementation on a regular basis.

#### **Madam Chairperson,**

The capacity building programme UNNATI (UNISpace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training by ISRO) during UNISPACE+50 announced by India is an initiative towards

LTS guideline. We are glad to inform the Committee that two out of the three batches for international participants have been completed. We are enthused by the response of the participants on getting on-hands training. First batch of UNNATI Programme was conducted from 15th January to 15th March 2019 wherein 29 participants from 17 countries had benefitted. Second batch of UNNATI Programme was conducted from 15th October to 15th December 2019 wherein 30 participants from 16 countries had participated. India had solicited proposals with an “Announcement of Opportunity (AO)” for payloads on Orbital Platform in the fourth stage (PS4) of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and for scientific payloads on its Sounding Rockets. Proposals were invited from Scientific community from India and UN member nations for conducting scientific experiments with Innovative payloads using these platforms.

In order to cope with the growing space debris population, India is enhancing its capabilities for space debris observation with the establishment of NETwork for space object TRacking and Analysis (NETRA) as a step towards Safety of Space operations. India registers the information on its space objects with UNOOSA through national reports. India is planning to host the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) workshop at Thiruvananthapuram during November 2020. There is now enhanced focus on development and utilization of ‘Green propellants’ to support sustainable exploration.

**Madam Chairperson,**

With reference to the guidelines contained in document A/AC.105/C.1.L.367, it is our considered opinion that some of these are very close to finalization and could be under the purview of the new Working Group. In some cases, it is a question of simplification of language, choice of proper words, re-organization and eliminating duplication of texts. We are also open to suggestion and drafting of new guidelines. Indian delegation hopes that the new Working Group will make substantial progress during this session on implementation of LTS guidelines and the finalization of its work plan. Indian delegation continues to support the evolution of this compendium into a comprehensive framework.

**Thank You Madam Chairperson!**

