

Statement on Long-term Sustainability Guidelines: Agenda item 13

Madam Chair,

We welcome the agreement on the preamble and 21 Long-term Sustainability Guidelines as a significant achievement of international cooperation. The ability for COPUOS to agree these guidelines shows the value of a multilateral approach to space sustainability that we hope continues as we build on what we have already achieved.

As host to a commercial launch service, New Zealand is already working to implement the guidelines in our space regulatory regime. Although our space legislation is only three years old, we will also have regard to the Guidelines as we review the legislation and space regulation in the coming years.

As a launching state, New Zealand takes our responsibilities as a gateway to space seriously. For this reason, we recently announced payload permitting principles which will guide our regulation of space activities. These principles are: safety, responsibility, and sustainability.

There is no doubt about the urgency and importance of building on the agreement of the guidelines, and we look forward to working constructively with Committee members to agree the details of the Working Group.

For New Zealand, we see four necessary components to maintain our momentum:

- **Effective implementation** of the voluntary guidelines at the national level.
 - The guidelines are currently broad principles. To implement them effectively we need to ensure they are as relevant and clear as possible for all space actors, including industry.
- A process **facilitating international cooperation** on implementing the guidelines:
 - This information sharing will be necessary to share experiences from implementation, assist emerging space nations, and ensure consistency of application.
 - We note also that although implementation is at the national level, the global nature of the space industry means that international cooperation is essential.
 - For example: as a launching state, New Zealand works with other governments to ensure that all satellites launched from New Zealand are registered, and comply with their own domestic regulations and laws.
- A mechanism for **including the views of industry**. Industry are at the forefront of new space technologies, and although subject to national regulation they are significant space actors in their own right and think carefully about these issues. One industry organisation worth particular mention is the Space Safety Coalition, which is developing best practices with the Guidelines at their core.
- Given the rapid pace of technological change, we need to be open to **reflecting on lessons learned from implementation, including any additional areas where new guidelines** may be necessary for the space industry.
 - Many of these new technologies have potential to help manage the increasing quantity of satellites being launched, and manage the increasing quantity of debris that is occurring at the same time.

We look forward to working together constructively to develop a terms of reference, method of work and work plan for the new working group. Thank you.