

AUSTRIAN STATEMENT

58th STSC (19 – 30 April 2021)

ITEM 12

“Long-term sustainability of Outer Space Activities”

Madame Chair, Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Austria very much welcomes the establishment of a Working Group to further address the issue of Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities within the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of COPUOS. In our view, it is necessary to adequately address this issue at the international level in order to achieve practical guidance for current and emerging challenges in this context.

The adoption of 21 Guidelines and the Preamble in 2019 was a great success and an achievement of this Subcommittee and the Committee. We should continue on this path to improve the safe and sustainable conduct of space activities in the future.

Austria once again fully supports the Committee's agreement on the three main working areas of the Working Group:

- 1) identifying and studying challenges and considering possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of space activities;
- 2) sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from national implementation of adopted guidelines; and
- 3) raising awareness and building capacity, especially among emerging spacefaring nations and developing countries.



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We believe that this represents a balanced and comprehensive approach to structuring our future work in the LTS-Working Group.

Furthermore, we believe that it is important to address both scientific and technical issues as well as legal aspects related to the safety and sustainability of space activities in the working group. We therefore support opportunities for close exchange between the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee in this regard.

We hope that a Bureau can be quickly established in order to lead and structure the work of the LTS-Working Group. Furthermore, we hope that **Terms of Reference, Working Methods and a Work Plan** for the working group can be adopted at this meeting so that substantive work and in-depth discussions can begin as soon as possible.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that the Austrian delegation will continue to strongly support the efforts of the working group.

THANK YOU