

 Permanent
Mission
of Austria

to the United
Nations in Vienna

AUSTRIA, ITEM 13

Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

59th STSC (7 – 18 February 2022)

Mr. Johann SPITZER, Minister Counsellor

Chair,

The adoption of *21 Guidelines on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space* in 2019 was a great success and achievement of this Subcommittee and the Committee. As outer space is getting more and more contested and congested, we need to ensure that space can be used for the benefit of all humankind and for future generations.

Austria very much welcomes the establishment of a *Working Group LTS 2.0* to further address the long-term sustainability of outer space activities at multilateral level in this subcommittee. 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.

We fully support 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.

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

The Working Group will agree on its *terms of reference, methods of work and workplan* during this session of the Subcommittee and be able to start substantive work and in depth discussions on the working areas agreed. Let me emphasise that Austria will continue to strongly support the efforts of the Working Group.

We also want to inform the Subcommittee that Austria participated in the project "*The awareness-raising and capacity-building related to the implementation of the guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities*", which UNOOSA is running currently. In an interview, we shared our experiences with regard to the analysis of the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines. We thank the secretariat for this initiative and look forward to receiving the final report.