

Agenda Item 13 - ESA

Madame Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

In June 2019, the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were adopted. The Committee encouraged States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures to ensure that the guidelines are implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable. In view of this, ESA, to which major space activities are entrusted with shared responsibilities across Member States, wishes to present the implementation status vis-à-vis the guidelines.

In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to ESA's Conference Room Paper "Report on the Implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities in ESA". This document presents a mapping of ESA's achievement, assets and actions towards each of the individual guidelines. It is structured along the 21 guidelines which are recalled by their title in the order of appearance in A/74/20. Each of the individual guideline is paired with a paragraph of past and present ESA activities that are considered achievements and actions in the spirit of and in response to the guidelines. It should be taken into account that the actions, products, services and achievements listed hereunder are presented in concise form and their description is limited to the outmost key aspects. ESA hopes that this conference room paper inspires also other delegations to provide insight on the implementation status of the guidelines.

Madame chair, distinguished delegates, let me also point you to a technical presentation this afternoon by ESA on "Space Sustainability activities in ESA". With this report, ESA wishes to show its transparency on its own mitigation efforts and it also provides statistics on the overall global adherence level following the long tradition of these reports. This technical presentation will also update you on the status of ESA's ambitious space safety programme which addresses technical solutions towards space sustainability including a novel active removal mission. Finally, we will address a new initiative, that is called the PROTECT Accelerator, which will contribute to the "safeguarding and protecting European assets from space debris and space weather interferences, in synergy with relevant national, EU or other European initiatives, at a moment when it is urgent and relevant for Europe to ensure available and resilient infrastructure and services for its society and economy." The PROTECT Accelerator is outlining an ambition for Europe, with to-be-defined complementary roles for the different actors (incl ESA) stressing the clear urgency to accelerate the establishment of crucial systems to provide the actionable information and timely warnings that Europe needs to prevent damage and disruption to its economically vital space and ground infrastructure.

Madame chair, distinguished delegates, let me close my intervention by underlining ESA's commitment to a sustainable use of space. ESA is grateful to work jointly with UNOOSA on the series of nine infographics and podcast episodes that tell the story of space debris, explain the risks and illustrate the solutions available to ensure future space exploration remains sustainable. These can be found on the webpage of UNOOSA and ESA and they are open for the use by all delegations. I thank you very much for your attention.