

## **Statement Netherlands regarding agenda item 8 (Space Debris)**

Delivered by: Mr. J.G. Kroon, Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands  
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Dear Mr. Chairman,

Dear Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor. The Netherlands delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as a Chair, and assure you of our full support and cooperation during this session and beyond. We are highly convinced that under your leadership we will have a very fruitful and successful meeting. Please allow me also to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Director Ms. Di Pippo and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for the preparation of this meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS. In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Dipipo for all the work she has done over the past 8 years in her role as OOSA Director. We wish her all the best in the continuation of her career.

The Netherlands wishes to take the opportunity to discuss this agenda-item and underline the importance of measures to reduce the effects of space debris in outer space.

Prognoses regarding the continuing increase of space debris are alarming. This trend will continue unless we act now. This means not only post mission disposal measures have to be taken. Actively removing space debris is also part of the solution. To secure sustainable use of outer space for current and future generations, adopting the measures included in the Space Debris Compendium is important. But it might not be enough. The Netherlands therefore urges States to take this issue seriously. This includes not only securing the safe decommissioning of space objects, but also implementing space traffic management measures. Such measures are critical given the current growth of the so called mega constellations which are networks of hundreds and even thousands commercial satellites, particularly in Low Earth Orbit.

In this respect I also would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all States, to halt the intentional and unnecessary creation of space debris. We consider such behavior irresponsible, and detrimental to sustainability, safety and security in outer space.

We all depend on satellites: for our economy, science and security. Space debris, whether created intentionally or not, poses a hazard to objects in space due to the risk of collision. The international community has a collective responsibility to tackle this problem. My administration strongly believes that we need to strengthen international agreements on responsible behavior in space. The Netherlands will remain actively involved in this matter, including through the various UN processes.

In the light of this, the Netherlands supports the development of an international worldwide regime for the mitigation of space debris. This regime should not only include measures that prevent the increase of space debris, but also include measures with a view to reducing the current amount of space debris already in outer space.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.