



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
THE 60th SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Delivered by Ms Pragashnie ADURTHY
Counsellor: South African Permanent Mission in Vienna

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Thank you, Chair

The long-term sustainability of outer space remains at the forefront of our discussions in light of the increasing number of activities conducted in outer space. South Africa believes that activities pertaining to the long-term sustainability of outer space cuts across all aspects of COPUOS work and contributes positively to the advancement of both science and society.

Accordingly, we wish to acknowledge the work of all delegations in advancing this important work. We express our confidence in the Chair of the Working Group and look forward to its deliberations in taking this important work forward.

Chair,

As a developing country, South Africa is fully aware that outer space activities are essential tools for realizing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We have heard from many delegations how space-derived data is contributing to socio-economic development across the world and improving the quality of human life.

These benefits are expansive and it is in our best interests that the long-term sustainability of outer space activities are preserved and protected for future generations. They should also take into consideration the priorities and concerns of all Member States, in particular developing countries to ensure equitable access to the benefits of exploration, alongside requisite capacity building and technical assistance. South Africa supports the proposed workshop/symposium under discussion to take place in 2024.

My delegation also supports the safety of space operations, In this regard, the destruction of space objects and the resultant proliferation of space debris, particularly in the low-Earth orbits, jeopardises the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and is condemned in the strongest terms.

Chair,

South Africa strongly believes that an interdisciplinary and mutually supportive effort is needed to achieve long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Voluntary responsible behaviour is premised on the understanding that outer space should remain an operationally stable and safe environment that is maintained for peaceful purposes and open for exploration, use and international cooperation by current and future generations.

Chairperson,

To conclude, South Africa wishes the Chair of the Working Group success in maintaining momentum and urges all members to work together in advancing the objectives of the WG and the implementation of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the LTS Guidelines.

Thank You.