

## **Statement – Australia**

### **60<sup>th</sup> Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

#### *Agenda item 3– General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities*

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates.

It is a pleasure to be joining you all in person. On behalf of my delegation, I commend the Chair, the Acting Director of the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs – Mr Niklas Hedman – and the Secretariat, for their continued support of the Subcommittee.

Additionally, Australia would like to welcome Guatemala and Uzbekistan as new Members of the Committee.

We look forward to a productive session.

#### ***Ukraine***

Chair,

At the very outset, let me acknowledge that as we meet today, war continues to rage in Ukraine. Australia condemns Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine, which has caused immense human suffering. The invasion is a gross violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. Australia strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and we call on Russia to end its war.

I would also like to comment on Russia's proposal to establish a regional centre for space science and technology education affiliated to the United Nations, referred to in UNGA resolution 76/76. Considering Russia's invasion of Ukraine is incongruent with the United Nations' aim to maintain international peace and security, Australia expresses serious concern with establishment of a Russian-led and hosted regional centre.

#### ***Australia's regulatory framework***

Chair,

The Australian Space Agency is responsible for regulating activities that go beyond 100km above mean sea level, or involve high power rockets.

The *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018* (the Act) forms the foundation of the Agency's efforts to promote a space sector culture that is globally respected, ensures national safety and security under an appropriate regulatory framework, and meets international obligations and norms.

To date, 3 Australian launch permits, 4 launch facility licences and 15 overseas payload permits have been granted under the Act.

### ***Long-term sustainability of outer space activities***

Chair,

Australia is committed to implementing the Guidelines on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, which provide a framework that aims to ensure that participants in space activities act in a safe and sustainable manner, while enjoying the benefits of space.

Australia was pleased to contribute to the recent informal consultations of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space (LTS Working Group) in November 2022. We consider these discussions were a constructive starting point for the Working Group's consideration of issues as outlined in its Terms of Reference, Methods of Work, and Workplan.

Australia looks forward to contributing to these important discussions further during this session of the Subcommittee.

### ***Space weather***

Chair,

Australia recognises the importance of space weather data and forecasts in supporting a sustainable outer space environment. We also recognise the role of international collaboration in strengthening space weather knowledge.

In this regard, Australia welcomes the Subcommittee's endorsement of the final report and recommendations of the Expert Group on Space Weather.

Australia looks forward to the continued consideration of this important topic within the Subcommittee under the 'space weather' agenda item.

### ***Dark and quiet skies***

Chair,

The emergence of large satellite constellations has the potential to create economic and social opportunities, as well as unintended consequences. As such, it is important that stakeholders work together on practical solutions for the protection of dark and quiet skies. It is equally important that the Subcommittee is supportive of this effort, consistent with its mandate.

We look forward to further discussions under the single issue / item titled ‘General exchange of views on dark and quiet skies for science and society’.

### ***Space and global health***

Chair,

Australia welcomes the UN General Assembly’s adoption of A/RES/77/120 – *Space and global health*, as developed by the Working Group on Space and Global Health and endorsed by the Committee.

Australia also welcomes the establishment of the dedicated platform for space and global health to promote effective collaboration on space and global health issues among Member States and United Nations system entities, in particular the World Health Organisation and the Office for Outer Space Affairs. We note the importance of this platform in supporting the role of innovative space technologies in informing public health responses in a collaborative way.

### ***Conclusion***

Chair,

Australia notes that consistent with its five-year workplan and methods of work, the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities shall collect relevant information concerning activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, including with respect to scientific and technological developments and current practices, taking into account their innovative and evolving nature. We welcome CRP.16 and its invitation to delegations to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to contribute to the work of the Working Group, as well as future collaboration and coordination between the two Subcommittees.



Australian Government



Australian  
Space Agency

Australia is committed to its international obligations and engagement with Member States through COPUOS.

We will continue to contribute to the development and implementation of norms that support a safe, stable and sustainable outer space environment.

Thank you.