

New Zealand National Statement

Agenda Item 12: Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

60th Session of the COPUOS

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

6-17 February 2023

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Chair,

Tēnā tatou katoa.

As a launching state, Aotearoa New Zealand places great importance on acting responsibly and sustainably in space. Ensuring the long-term sustainability of space is central to New Zealand's policy and regulatory approach. The significance of these drivers was highlighted by civic and sector stakeholders during recent public consultation on the values and objectives underpinning Aotearoa New Zealand's space policy.

Chair,

The Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, adopted in 2019, are an important step in the development of new norms and standards to ensure the sustainable use of outer space. The ability for COPUOS to agree these guidelines shows the value of a multilateral approach to space sustainability, an approach just as necessary now as we focus on the implementation of the Guidelines.

New Zealand wishes to acknowledge the work of all delegations in establishing the LTS Working Group 2.0 and in agreeing its terms of reference, methods of work and workplan. We look forward to the continued progress of the Working Group during this session and in the year ahead and to a productive discussion guided by the elements of the agreed framework, specifically:

- Identifying and studying challenges;
- Sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the adopted Guidelines; and
- Raising awareness and building capacity, in particular among emerging space nations and developing countries.

Aotearoa New Zealand urges all space actors to implement the Guidelines and recognises the value in sharing approaches to implementation. States' implementation experiences provide valuable insights that are useful for all states, whether developing an approach for the first time or seeking to improve upon existing practices. To better

facilitate this exchange, we encourage the use of the implementation reporting template proposed by the United Kingdom at previous sessions.

Chair,

New Zealand has been working to implement the guidelines in our space regulatory regime. In 2022 we completed a technical review of our national space law, the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act (the Act) in accordance with Guideline A.1. This technical review on the operation and effectiveness of Aotearoa New Zealand's space law assessed the Act's performance against its objectives and considered how it might be improved operationally.

The review noted that the Act had performed well overall since its implementation and made a number of recommendations to improve the Act and ensure it continues to be fit for purpose as novel space technologies continue to be developed.

Aotearoa New Zealand has found conducting an in-depth operational review of our space law to be a valuable exercise in identifying areas of our regulatory regime that need revising or amending. Both the development of our space law and the review of the Act have benefitted from consideration of the space regulatory regimes of other jurisdictions.

Aotearoa New Zealand continues to consider how to best apply the Guidelines to our space activity. Initiatives have been undertaken in the areas of registration practices, the supervision of national activities, the accuracy of information about space objects and new measures to manage the space debris population in the long term.

In closing Chair, we look forward to sharing our learnings from these activities and learning from the work of the member states on this important agenda item.

Thank you Chair.