

New Zealand Statement

Item 11: Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

29 January to 9 February 2024, Vienna

Check against Delivery

Thank you Chair.

Aotearoa New Zealand is grateful for the opportunity to share our views on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. As host to frequent space launches, New Zealand takes space sustainability very seriously.

In 2023 New Zealand released its National Space Policy, following consultation with the public. The Policy sets out New Zealand's values and objectives on space. The Policy's values of stewardship, innovation, responsibility and partnership demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to sustainability, in both the space and Earth environments.

New Zealand also released the Aerospace Strategy last year. The Aerospace Strategy sets out our approach to supporting the development of New Zealand's aerospace sector and includes five ambitious goals for the sector, for example having New Zealand at the forefront of sustainable space activities.

Chair

New Zealand continues to apply and implement the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines). We have undertaken initiatives in a range of areas including in the registration of space objects, implementation and review of national space law, and management of the space debris population.

The number of states looking to carry out space activities is increasing. This underscores the importance not only of states implementing the LTS guidelines but also in sharing implementation experiences.

New Zealand would like to thank the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. A sustainable space environment can only be achieved through international collaboration and cooperation and we are grateful for his efforts to progress this important work.

We look forward to continuing to participate in the Working Group and discussions at this meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Thank you Chair.