

**61st Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

Agenda Item No. 11 “Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities”

To be delivered by

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Thank you, Chair.

Allow us first to take this opportunity to congratulate Director Aarti Holla-Maini for her appointment as the new Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) last June 2023. Director Holla-Maini is assured of the Philippines’ full support in its crucial work to ensure the peaceful uses of outer space.

The Philippines reiterates its commitment to the preamble and 21 Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (*or the LTS Guidelines*), which was adopted in 2019 during the 62nd Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The country notes with great importance the call to adhere to the LTS Guidelines, which will confidently establish the foundation of the conduct of space activities for present and future generations. We firmly believe that this will ensure the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space.

The cooperation and support of both public and private space actors play an indispensable role in realizing the objectives of the LTS Guidelines. The adherence therefore, to these guidelines by the member states is of prime importance.

We would also like to highlight that the Philippines has always strongly advocated for the preservation of the outer space environment and promotion of international law, as expressed in the statement made by our Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Honorable Enrique A. Manalo during the 78th United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week in 2023 where the Philippines advocated “*for the peaceful uses of outer space, the elaboration of the principle of due regard in the space domain and greater responsibility among states to reduce space threats, including debris from rocket launches*”.

Chair and distinguished colleagues,

We would like to inform you that the national ratification process of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (or the Liability Convention) and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (or the Registration Convention) is still on-going.

While we are still in the process of ratification, we assure the Chair and this subcommittee that the Philippines abides with its commitment to implement the said conventions as evidently stipulated under our law, specifically under Republic Act No. 11363 or Philippine Space Act of 2019. Consistent and truthful to this commitment, we do share that the Philippines has submitted the registration requirements for our two (2) CubeSats, Maya-5 and Maya-6.

Chair,

The Philippines believes that we need to educate the future generations on the importance of international law in outer space for peace and sustainability. In line with this, we are delighted to share that the Philippines, through the Philippine Space Agency officially launched the children's book entitled "*Si Tala at ang Kanyang Lakbay Kalawakan!*" (or "*Tala and her Journey to Space*") with the objective of positively influencing the youth, increasing public awareness and support for space science and technology, policy, and diplomacy activities.

In closing, the Philippines recognizes the importance of international cooperation in the implementation of the Long-term Sustainability Guidelines and commends the work of this subcommittee and the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

Thank you, Chair.