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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Sixty-second session**  
Vienna, 12–21 June 2019

**Proposal by Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of  
America for the establishment of a working group on  
implementation of agreed guidelines and related aspects of  
the long-term sustainability of outer space activities**

**Conference room paper by Canada, France, Japan, the United  
Kingdom and the United States**

1. Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States are pleased to submit a proposal for consideration by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its 62nd session.
2. We welcome the Committee's endorsement at its 61st session of the recommendations and decisions of the 55th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee regarding the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (see [A/73/20](#), para 195 and [A/AC.105/1167](#), para. 274).
3. We support implementation by all nations of the 21 Guidelines for Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and the Preamble ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.366](#)), the text of which were agreed on the basis of consensus after eight years of extensive work by the Working Group and four expert groups.
4. The compendium of the preamble and 21 guidelines can promote increased communication, coordination, and capacity-building. It can also enhance practical international cooperation, and advance cooperative frameworks that promote responsible uses and exploration of outer space. This is consistent with the findings and recommendations contained in the 2013 consensus report of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities ([A/68/189](#)).
5. As technology advances and resulting capabilities for the peaceful use of space progress, our delegations believe that the adoption and implementation of the 21 guidelines will result in new "best practices" and raise new issues regarding spaceflight safety and safe space operations. The Working Group could take into consideration existing documents, including, inter alia, [A/AC.105/2019/CRP.12](#), [A/68/189](#), [A/AC.105/1116](#), [A/AC.105/1170](#), [A/AC.105/1145](#), [A/72/65](#), [A/AC.105/1171](#), Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and the Inter Agency Space Debris Coordination



Committee Statement and First Recommendations on Large Constellations of Satellites in Low Earth Orbit.

## Proposal

6. Therefore, we propose that a new Working Group on the Implementation and related aspects of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (LTS Guideline Implementation Working Group) be established under the item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

7. The phased objectives of the LTS Guideline Implementation Working Group would be to:

(a) Identify, compile, and assess relevant practices and procedures to support the practical implementation of the 21 consensus Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities by States Members of the Committee and related national and international organizations;

(b) Propose recommendations for further consideration by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee which would strengthen international cooperation in the implementation of the 21 consensus guidelines;

(c) Compile a separate listing of new proposed guidelines or proposals for potential revisions to the guidelines in [A/AC.105/C.1/L.366](#) for further consideration by the Committee which address emerging issues for long-term sustainability of space activities resulting from continued advances in government and private sector space activities.

8. International cooperation in the implementation of the 21 consensus guidelines on long-term sustainability of outer space activities will involve a range of governmental and private sector entities. Therefore, the LTS Guideline Implementation Working Group should give the fullest consideration to inputs provided by non-governmental organizations and other private sector actors, as well as inputs provided by States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations. Contributions from private sector actors would be coordinated through designated points of contact for States members participating in the Working Group.

9. The LTS Guideline Implementation Working Group should take into account recommendations and decisions endorsed by Committee and its Subcommittees on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as well as on progress made by other expert groups and working groups of the Subcommittee. Efforts should also take into account, but not unnecessarily duplicate, the activities being undertaken and recommendations made in the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, International Organization on Standardization and other international fora.

10. To ensure a focus on tangible results, the LTS Guideline Implementation Working Group should conduct its work over a five-year period with the following milestones:

2020 -- Establishment of an LTS Guideline Implementation Working Group and presentation of its proposed programme of work to the 57th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

2021 -- Review of inputs provided by States members and international intergovernmental organizations on issues relating to the practical implementation of the 21 consensus LTS Guidelines contained in [A/AC.105/C.1/L.366](#) (including contributions from private sector actors provided through designated national points of contact).

2022 -- Presentation of findings and recommendations regarding expanded international cooperation to facilitate practical implementation of the

21 consensus LTS guidelines to the 59th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

2023 -- Presentation of preliminary findings on emerging issues for long-term sustainability of space activities resulting from continued advances in government and private sector space activities to the 60th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

2024 -- Presentation of a final working group report to the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, including definitive findings on emerging issues and recommendations for enhancing the implementation and compliance with the 21 consensus LTS guidelines. The report shall also include an annex containing (i) potential new voluntary, non-legally binding guidelines, and (ii) proposals for potential revisions to guidelines in [A/AC.105/C.1/L.366](#), to be addressed in the future, as agreed to by the Subcommittee.

11. The chair of the LTS Guideline Implementation Working Group would regularly inform COPOUS and the Legal Subcommittee regarding the status of its efforts.

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