

**Canadian Statement**  
**Agenda Item 12 – Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.**  
**Delivered by: Eleonora Agnew, Canadian Space Agency**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Fifty-eighth Session, Vienna, April 19-30, 2021

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Outer Space Treaty states that the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development. Those words will have little meaning if we cannot work together to secure the long-term safety and sustainability of outer space for the benefit and in the interest of all. Canada is proud to have been part of the decade-long effort to achieve consensus on the preamble and 21 guidelines, and commends the Committee's dedication to continue working together to find solutions and share best practices in order to advance the practical implementation – but we need to do more.

Madame Chair,

Canada is committed to continue working with all member States to establish the next working group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. We would like to thank the Secretariat for enabling and Ms. Pontsho Maruping of South Africa for chairing informal consultations throughout the past year, with the hope of establishing a bureau. We have made progress but unfortunately have not quite reached agreement. In the Vienna spirit of cooperation, we urge member States to set aside political differences and work together in bridging consensus on the bureau's composition, so we can establish a terms of reference, method of work and work plan to enable us all to move forward with this important effort at this session. Listening carefully to the discussions over the past year, and in order to facilitate these discussions, Canada, along with Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, and the United States have submitted a proposal for consideration during the LTS 2.0 working group.

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

We believe that sharing and reviewing best practices on the practical implementation of the LTS guidelines will enhance communication, international cooperation, and capacity building. Advancing implementation of the 21 adopted guidelines -- and capacity building in that regard

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-- should be foundational to the new Working Group. Such a structure will ensure that the Working Group's identification and study of emerging space missions is informed by the most current information on experiences, practices and lessons learned by non-governmental organizations, industry, the private sector, the academic community as well as governmental space actors.

The long-term safety and sustainability of outer space is very important to Canada. We have consulted broadly across government to assess our current level of compliance with the guidelines and look forward to reporting on our findings at a future session. Although our existing domestic framework is compliant with a number of guidelines, we acknowledge that there is still more to do to ensure we reach full compliance. We look forward to working with other COPUOS member States, under the new working group, to share and review best practices in an effort to provide us with a clearer picture of what our nation needs to do to address any gaps.

Finally, Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

Canada believes national implementation of the existing guidelines will reinforce the role of COPUOS as the most effective multilateral forum for the advancement of practical cooperation in the peaceful uses and exploration of outer space, for the benefit of all. Therefore, our delegation encourages all member states to work together to elect a bureau and continue the important work toward the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities so we can live up to the principles of the Outer Space Treaty.

Thank you for your attention.