

## **Statement – AUSTRALIA**

### **58<sup>th</sup> Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

#### *Agenda item 12 – Long-term sustainability of outer space activities*

Thank you, Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

Australia is committed to the development and implementation of rules and norms that seek to ensure the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space. The Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines) provide an effective framework to support this outcome.

#### *Implementation of the LTS Guidelines*

Madam Chair,

Australia is already undertaking practical steps to implement the guidelines. For example, the Australian Space Agency is developing a roadmap for Space Situational Awareness (SSA).

The overarching vision of the SSA Roadmap is to grow the Australian space sector while enabling responsible use of space. This includes identifying barriers and opportunities for technical innovation to enhance SSA.

The SSA Roadmap is informed by a Technical Advisory Group, comprised of Australian experts from government, industry and academia.

Madam Chair,

Additionally, we are working with our domestic industry to understand their awareness, perspectives and activities related to Australia's implementation of the guidelines as part of building a culture of safety and sustainability, as well as informing our contribution to discussions in the LTS 2.0 working group.

The Agency has conducted a Survey on Australia's Implementation of the LTS Guidelines, consisting of approximately 38 participants across industry and government, including satellite manufacturers, launch companies and universities. When asked what sustainability in space meant to them, the common responses included:

- responsible and safe use of space,
- preserving the space environment for future generations, and

- agreed governance structures to facilitate sustainability in space.

Participants noted that sustainability in space has a strong influence on project planning and activities. Most participants viewed the guidelines as beneficial. Additionally, participants stated that the LTS Guidelines provide clarity and consistency on safe and sustainable uses of space, influence the creation of sustainable technologies and build a responsible reputation.

A number of examples were provided by participants implementing the LTS Guidelines within their current activities.

For example, companies are considering the development of internal policy on space debris mitigation which draws on the UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines. Another example is universities collaborating with industry to develop innovative space debris monitoring technologies.

The participants also noted some of the challenges of implementing the LTS Guidelines, including balancing the implementation of sustainability measures and maintaining commercial viability.

The Australian Government will continue to work closely with our space sector on implementation of the LTS Guidelines. We look forward to sharing more of our story with you.

#### *LTS 2.0 working group*

Madam Chair,

Australia welcomes the establishment of a working group under the long-term sustainability of outer space activities agenda item. We acknowledge the work of the previous working group in coming to consensus on 21 guidelines. Additionally, we thank South Africa for convening intersessional meetings to enable further consultation on a working group bureau.

Australia is co-sponsoring a Conference Room Paper (CRP) in partnership with Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria and the United States on a Terms of Reference, Methods of Work and work plan for the new working group. The approach proposed within the CRP is pragmatic, inclusive, and focused on outcomes aimed at advancing implementation of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines, sharing and reviewing implementation experiences, the identification of challenges associated with the emerging uses of space and consideration of possible new guidelines.



Australian Government



Australian  
Space Agency

We encourage Member States to consider the CRP and possible co-sponsorship over the course of our discussions.

It is important we continue to implement the LTS Guidelines so we may continue to enjoy the economic and societal benefits derived from space-based technology, while ensuring continued access to space.

We look forward to collaborating with Member States as we consider the form and approach of the new working group, and move forward with our work.

Thank you.