

11 June 2015

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Fifty-eighth session
Vienna, 10-19 June 2015


Proposal by the United States for an Expert Group on Collaborative Space Situational Awareness

Working paper submitted by the United States

The United States is pleased to submit a proposal for consideration by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:

1. The United States welcomes the efforts of the Chair of the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Working Group) to prepare a revised set of draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/L.298). This effort largely builds upon the consensus reports of four expert groups that conducted detailed examinations of specific technical issues during a series of formal and informal meetings held between October 2011 and June 2014.
2. In addition to contributing to a set of LTS guidelines, the United States believes the extensive work of the LTS Working Group's four expert groups can serve as a foundation to promote increased communication, coordination and capacity-building to enhance the safety of space operations.
3. It should be noted that a Space Weather Expert Group has been established by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) at its 52nd session, as endorsed by the Committee at its 57th session. This expert group draws on the conclusions and recommendations of Expert Group-C on space weather of the LTS Working Group. Canada serves as the rapporteur. The mandate of this Space Weather Expert Group is to promote awareness, provide guidance, and enable communication and cooperation in space weather-related activities among Member States and related national and international organizations.
4. The United States believes that a second expert group, set up with a rapporteur under the STSC agenda item on long-term sustainability of space activities, could

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address issues associated with ensuring information consistency and transfer reliability for collaborative space situational awareness (SSA). The objective of this expert group would be to take stock of relevant practices and procedures for SSA collaboration around the world and to propose recommendations, including areas for future study.

5. This STSC expert group on collaborative SSA can build upon the consensus recommendations of Expert Group B on space debris, space operations, and tools for collaborative space situational awareness of the LTS Working Group. The new expert group on collaborative SSA also could focus on issues associated with information exchanges to reduce the probability of, and facilitate effective responses to, orbital collisions, orbital breakups, and other events that might increase the probability of accidental collisions.

6. Because collaborative SSA will increasingly involve sharing of information provided by a range of governmental and private sector entities, the expert group should give the fullest consideration to inputs provided by national non-governmental organizations and private sector actors as well as inputs provided by State Members of COPUOS and international intergovernmental organizations. As with the Space Weather Expert Group, this group could conduct its efforts within existing resources, with no specific Secretariat services required.
