



SECURE WORLD FOUNDATION

Statement under Agenda Item 10. *Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities*

Sixty-Second Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Madam chair, distinguished Delegates, and observers on behalf of Secure World, and as the former chair of the LTS Working Group 1.0, I appreciate this opportunity to offer some observations on how we might take forward some of the ideas envisaged in the already adopted LTS guidelines.

As delegations are aware, last autumn saw the successful completion of the UN Summit for the Future, a multilateral process that resulted in the further clarification of this committee's mandate in the adoption of the UN-wide Pact for the Future. Action 56 of the pact for the future encourages States to discuss the establishment of new frameworks for space traffic, space debris, and space resources through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. We are all aware of the rapidly increasing congestion in space and the urgent need to enhance space traffic coordination.

The LTS guidelines emphasize the importance of information sharing on space objects and orbital events for the safety of space operations. LTS Guideline B1 calls upon states and international inter-governmental organizations to pursue a dedicated consultative process, preferably under the auspices of the Committee and taking into account the work of relevant technical bodies. And here I quote directly from Guideline B1 to "consider, acquire specific understanding of, and develop shared positions on the practical issues and modalities, as appropriate, relating to the exchange of relevant information on space objects and events in near-Earth space obtained from different authorized sources, in order to achieve harmonized and standardized record-keeping on space objects and events in outer space."

In this regard, we take note of the Conference Room Paper 20, submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, which contains a proposal for the establishment of an expert group on space situational awareness within the framework of the STC. We believe this to be a very timely and much needed initiative to start discussions aimed at developing practical information sharing practices to aid operational coordination and improve orbital safety, as was envisaged in LTS Guideline B1.

We believe that the establishment of such an expert group would be a step in the right direction to advance global cooperation and SSA information sharing and coordination, which will be a necessary foundational step towards enhancing space traffic coordination. Such a step would help with, inter alia, the development of internationally agreed measures for providing access to information on objects and events in outer space on a timely basis and for achieving consistency in the understanding and use of such information as one of the means to support the safety of space operations.

LTS Guideline B1 envisages a number of possible options for consideration that could serve as a basis for a distributed international information system for multilateral cooperation and sharing and disseminating multi-source information on objects and events in near-Earth space. Madam Chair, space traffic coordination is fundamental for securing the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. In our view, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is the principal multilateral intergovernmental forum for technical discussions on space traffic coordination.

We further believe that the proposal by the UAE to establish an expert group on space situational awareness within the framework of the STSC is an appropriate and timely next step in the implementation of one of the recommendations in the LTS Guidelines on Effective Information Sharing on space objects and events, and we hope that the Subcommittee will agree to take this next step.

Madam chair, distinguished delegates, the Secure World Foundation looks forward to continuing to support the Committee's efforts to achieve and sustain the continued peaceful uses of outer space. Thank you for your kind attention.