Implementation of the LTS Guidelines

Brian Weeden, Ph.D.
Director of Program Planning
Secure World Foundation
What are the LTS guidelines?

• In 2010, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) established the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities

• The Working Group was tasked with producing a set of voluntary, non-binding guidelines for all space actors to help ensure the long-term sustainable use of outer space

• The Working Group’s mandate ended in June 2018, at which point the UN COPUOS member States reached consensus on 21 guidelines and a context-setting preambular text. The States also agreed to continue their discussions of space sustainability under a dedicated agenda item of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS. Consensus was not reached on 7 guidelines

• In June 2019, the COPUOS plenary officially adopted these 21 guidelines, and agreed to create a working group under the agenda item of on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
The Working Group considered current practices, operating procedures, technical standards, and policies relevant to space sustainability and safety; and took as its legal framework the existing UN treaties and principles governing space activities.

The Working Group established four expert groups to discuss specific topics, propose candidate guidelines, and focus on the following thematic areas:

- Expert Group A: Sustainable space utilization supporting sustainable development on Earth;
- Expert Group B: Space debris, space operations and tools to support collaborative space situational awareness;
- Expert Group C: Space weather; and
- Expert Group D: Regulatory regimes and guidance for actors in the space arena.
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- Expert Group D: Regulatory regimes and guidance for actors in the space arena.
• The 21 agreed guidelines comprise a collection of internationally recognized measures for ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and for enhancing the safety of space operations

• **92 Member States agreed on these guidelines**

• Full text of agreed guidelines available in UN document A/AC.105/2018/CRP.20. The four major sections:
  – Policy and regulatory
  – Safety of space operations
  – Cooperation and capacity-building
  – Scientific and technical R&D
Implementation: challenges and measures

**CHALLENGES**

- Different capabilities and capacities to implement
- Possibility of different interpretations of the guidelines
- Details of implementation are not prescribed → different implementation practices?
- Role for the private sector?

**MEASURES**

- Improved dialogue & coordination among regulators
- Sharing of implementation experiences
- Development of agreed metrics of implementation
Panel discussion on implementation
In February 2020, UN COPUOS STSC began negotiations of a potential LTS 2.0 Working Group to continue the effort

- US/Japan/Canada proposal for a 5-year work plan focused on implementation
- China proposal for a 5-year work plan focused on additional guidelines
- UAE proposal for a 5-year work plan focused on both implementation and additional guidelines

- Debate over leadership and structure of the new working group
  - Nominees from Switzerland, the UAE, Japan, and India to be Chair
  - Debate over whether or not to have expert groups
  - Terms of Reference

- Discussion will likely not be resolved until COPUOS Plenary in June 2020
Thanks!

Questions?

bweeden@swfound.org