



*Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Sustainability*

# Implementation of the LTS Guidelines

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## 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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- 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

## 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?**

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