



**63rd session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

2-13 February 2026

Statement by Australia

Agenda item 11: Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates,

Australia is committed to the development and implementation of rules and norms that seek to support 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.

Supporting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Chair,

Australia, through the Australian Space Agency, supports the long-term safety and stability of, and access to, space services and capabilities. Initiatives include promoting advanced technology, incorporating First Nations knowledge and building industry capability. Helping to underpin this work is Australia's continued undertaking of practical steps to implement the LTS Guidelines,

including through legislation and policy, international engagement, and research and development activities.

The 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC), held last year in Sydney, presented a significant opportunity for Australia to showcase its approach to space sustainability. The event theme of ‘*Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth*’ explored the connection between space innovation and sustainability, focusing on three areas: space-based applications for Earth; sustainable space activities; and sustaining life off Earth.

This included the Host Nation Plenary, entitled ‘*Beyond integration: Building Earth-Sky Knowledge Infrastructure for Co-discovery in Space and Sustainability*’. Co-developed by five Indigenous Australian leaders with the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand space agencies, the plenary explored how Indigenous perspectives can inform sustainable space practices and foster co-discovery between Indigenous knowledge systems and science.

We hope these events provided a unique perspective on, and contribution to, international dialogue on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Chair,

Australia continues to strongly support the aims of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

We are pleased the Working Group has reached consensus on its report for presentation to the Subcommittee during this session.

Australia supports and welcomes the Working Group's agreement to extend the Working Group, under the able leadership of Mr Umamaheswaran of India as Chair. It is our view that there is a clear need for further work on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and the Working Group's extension provides an opportune juncture to consider the next phase of its work.

In this regard, Australia was pleased to engage in the intersessional meeting of the Working Group on 8 and 9 October 2025 to discuss possible elements for a new workplan. We note there appears to be an early convergence on the duration of the extension, and note the ideas put forward in relation to the structuring of substantive discussions.

Australia thanks the Chair, as supported by the Secretariat, for developing a draft workplan for the period 2026 to 2029 for the Working Group's consideration. Our view is that the new workplan should enable further consideration of challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, including the thematic areas identified in paragraph 9(b) of the report of the Working Group to be presented to the Subcommittee at this session.

Australia looks forward to further productive exchanges. It is important the Working Group reaches consensus on the workplan so it may continue its work in a timely manner.

Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness

Chair,

Australia welcomes the establishment of the Expert Group on Space Situational Awareness under the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. We extend congratulations to Ms Fatima Salem Al Shamsi of the United Arab Emirates on her nomination as Chair.

Australia sees value in discussing both governance and technical aspects of this issue. The Expert Group's objective – to create a technical basis to support actionable recommendations and voluntary standards aimed at enhancing global SSA operational coordination and safety in space activities – will enhance the Working Group's consideration of the thematic area of SSA.

Closing

Chair,

The long-term sustainability of outer space activities is a global issue requiring a global response. Australia is committed to continued engagement with the Subcommittee on this important matter.

Thank you.