Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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The permanent Committee was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1959

- Focuses on **international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space**
- Reports to the United Nations General Assembly (one of the principal organs of the UN) via the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
- Currently **100 States members,** w/ two more to join by the end of 2022, and supported by observer organizations
- Has a Scientific and Technical (STSC) and Legal Subcommittees (LSC) and working groups
- STSC, LSC and COPUOS each meet annually w/ **Secretariat services provided by the Office for Outer Space Affairs** (additional intersessional meetings are held on specific topics)
- Decision are taken by **consensus,** giving **equal negotiating power to all member States**

IN 2019 INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON GUIDANCE FOR THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) adopted, by consensus, a preamble and 21 Guidelines, demonstrating how States collaborate multilaterally to prioritize space sustainability.

The Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space comprise a compendium of internationally recognized measures for, and commitments to, ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

The preamble of the Guidelines defines the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, explains their voluntary and non-legally binding status, and shares how the guidance they provide is to be reviewed and updated.

The Guidelines are relevant to both governmental and non-governmental entities.

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#SPACESUSTAINABILITY

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THE GUIDELINES PROVIDE DETAILED GUIDANCE **ACROSS FOUR SECTIONS**: **A)** POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES; **B)** SAFETY OF SPACE OPERATIONS; **C)** INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND AWARENESS; AND **D)** SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Space Sustainability

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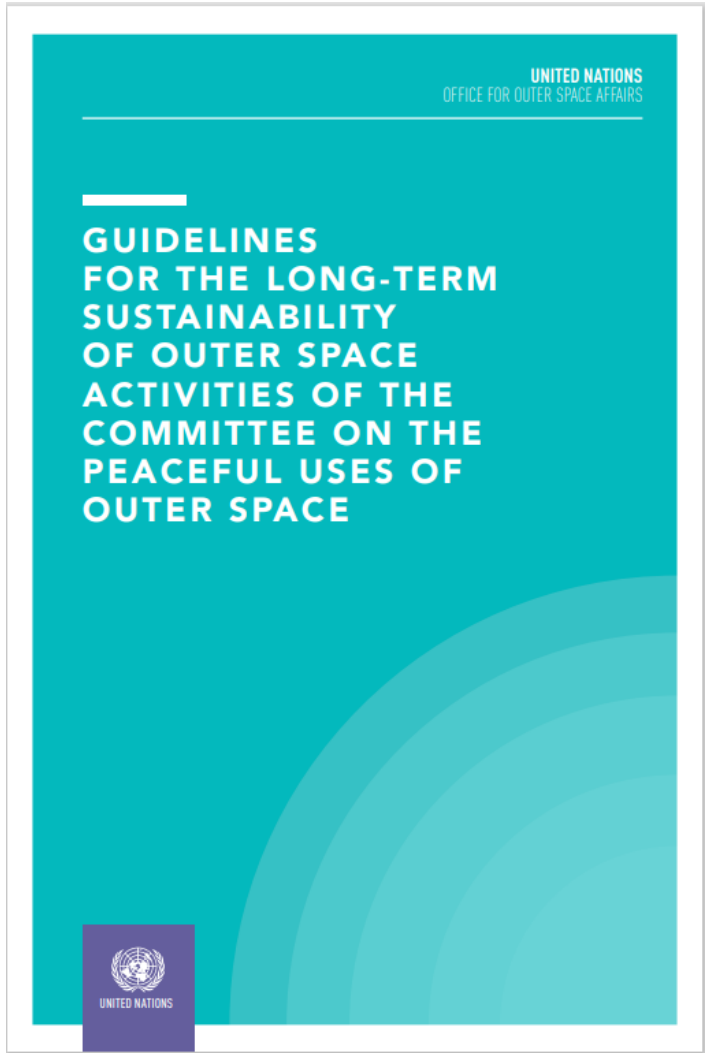
"The long-term sustainability of outer space activities is defined as the ability to **maintain the conduct of space activities indefinitely** into the future in a manner that realizes the objectives of **equitable access to the benefits** of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, in order to meet the needs of the present generations while **preserving the outer space environment** for future generations."

ST/SPACE/79



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A.1 Adopt, revise and amend, as necessary, national regulatory frameworks for outer space activities

A.2 Consider a number of elements when developing, revising or amending, as necessary, national regulatory frameworks for outer space activities

POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES

Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities: Section A

A.3 Supervise national space activities

A.4 Ensure the equitable, rational and efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum and the various orbital regions used by satellites

A.5 Enhance the practice of registering space objects

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B.1 Provide updated contact information and share information on space objects and orbital events

B.2 Improve accuracy of orbital data on space objects and enhance the practice and utility of sharing orbital information on space objects

B.3 Promote the collection, sharing and dissemination of space debris monitoring information

B.4 Perform conjunction assessments during all orbital phases of controlled flight

B.5 Develop practical approaches for pre-launch conjunction assessments

B.6 Share operational space weather data and forecasts

SAFETY OF SPACE OPERATIONS

Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities: Section B

B.7 Develop space weather models and tools, and collect established practices on the mitigation of space weather effects

B.8 Design and operation of space objects regardless of their physical and operational characteristics

B.9 Take measures to address risks associated with the uncontrolled re-entry of space objects

B.10 Observe measures of precaution when using sources of laser beams passing through outer space

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C.1 Promote and facilitate international cooperation in support of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities

C.2 Share experience related to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and develop new procedures, as appropriate, for information exchange

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND AWARENESS

Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities: Section C

C.3 Promote and support capacity-building

C.4 Raise awareness of space activities

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D.1 Promote and support research into and the development of ways to support sustainable exploration and use of outer space

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities: Section D

D.2 Investigate and consider new measures to manage the space debris population in the long term

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