



General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 April 2017

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Sixtieth session

Vienna, 7-16 June 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Ways and means of maintaining outer space
for peaceful purposes**

Views of States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

Note by the Secretariat

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	2
II. Replies received from States members of the Committee	2
Australia	2
China	5
United Arab Emirates	8

* [A/AC.105/L.307](#).



I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-ninth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that States members of the Committee should be invited to submit their views on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities ([A/68/189](#)) and on document [A/AC.105/1116](#) to the sixtieth session of the Committee, in 2017, and that those matters should be addressed under the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (see [A/71/20](#), para. 272).
2. In a note verbale dated 26 January 2017, the Secretary-General invited States members of the Committee to submit their reports by 25 March 2017. The present note was prepared by the Secretariat based on the replies received to that invitation.

II. Replies received from States members of the Committee

Australia

[Original: English]
[24 March 2017]

Australia is committed to a rules-based global order, which extends to space. With our economy, defence and society highly dependent on space technology, Australia has a strong interest in reducing the risks of conflict in space and risks posed by proliferating space debris.

Australia believes verifiable transparency and confidence-building measures offer the best chance of making an immediate improvement in the security and sustainability of outer space activities that have the potential of developing into measures that have a binding effect based on real acceptance. When States adopt transparency and confidence-building measures and include them in their regulations and laws, they can begin to affect behaviour immediately. As transparency and confidence-building measures gain wider acceptance they become accepted norms of international behaviour. This was the process recognized in the 2013 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities ([A/68/189](#)), in which it was recommended that States work together to create transparency and confidence-building measures and build norms of responsible behaviour in space.

In its resolution 71/42 and three previous resolutions, the General Assembly underscored the value and importance of regular discussions within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament on the transparency and confidence-building measures proposed in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts and on prospects for their implementation.

For its part, Australia has taken the following steps to implement the categories of transparency and confidence-building measures identified in that report:

- (a) General transparency and confidence-building measures aimed at enhancing the availability of information on the space policy of States involved in outer space activities:
 - (i) Australia implements this transparency measure by publishing the State of Space Report, an annual summary of civilian space-related activities conducted by Commonwealth Government agencies represented on the Space Coordination Committee of the Australian Government and outlines the country's defence space policy in the Government's 2016 defence white paper;
 - (b) Exchange of information about programmes for developing new space systems and information about operational space-based systems providing widely

used services such as meteorological observations or global positioning, navigation and timing:

(i) Australia participates in the Combined Space Operations initiative with the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, and New Zealand, which is designed to improve cooperation and coordination in space among partners and focuses on space situational awareness, force support, launch and re-entry assessment, and space contingency operations. International cooperation measures such as the initiative help to build transparency and confidence among nations, encouraging responsible behaviour in space;

(ii) The Government of Australia funds research and development relating to space systems through competitive public funding mechanisms such as cooperative research centres, the national collaborative research infrastructure strategy, the Australian Space Research Programme and the Australian Research Council. The research and development relates to areas that include space debris tracking and monitoring technologies (both active and passive) for the verification of transparency and confidence-building measures. The exchange of information within the Government is facilitated by the Government's Space Coordination Office, and particularly its Space Coordination Committee;

(iii) Australia has a long history of working collaboratively and transparently with both domestic and international partners, including through:

a. Participation in global intergovernmental coordination bodies such as the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), which it chaired in 2016, and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO);

b. Collaboration with international astronomy institutes on the development and deployment of state-of-the-art telescope components, the joint development of initiatives relating to the management of satellite imagery and other Earth observation data, such as the Australian Geoscience Data Cube, the GEO Global Forest Observation Initiative and the GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring initiative (through the "Rangeland and pasture productivity" programme), which have been shared internationally to benefit the global community, and partnership with international space agencies including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) on spacecraft tracking and communications;

(iv) Australia and New Zealand are collaborating on a satellite-based augmentation system trial for positioning applications in both countries. The system utilizes both space-based and ground-based infrastructure to improve the accuracy, integrity and availability of basic Global Navigation Satellite System signals. Testing will validate applications in nine industry sectors: agriculture, aviation, construction, maritime, mining, rail, road, spatial, and utilities;

(c) The articulation of a State's principles and goals relating to its exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes:

(i) The satellite utilization policy of Australia includes among its guiding principles a commitment to supporting rules-based international access to the space environment to promote peaceful, safe and responsible activities in space;

(d) Specific information exchange measures aimed at expanding the availability of information on objects in outer space and their general function, particularly those objects in Earth orbits:

(i) Australia has committed itself to helping to address the global orbital congestion problem by hosting a United States space surveillance network radar, which provides users worldwide with accurate orbital data on objects

orbiting Earth. Australia will also assist in enhancing transparency and confidence by hosting a United States optical space surveillance telescope that will further improve shared space situational awareness;

(ii) The Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex, operated by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation on behalf of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, tracks and communicates with spacecraft as part of the NASA Deep Space Network under the terms of a treaty between the United States and Australia;

(iii) Applicants for overseas space launch certificates must, under the Space Activities Act 1998, include information consistent with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, and Australia registers space objects as appropriate under that Convention;

(e) Measures related to establishing norms of behaviour for promoting spaceflight safety such as launch notifications and consultations aimed at avoiding potentially harmful interference, limiting orbital debris and minimizing the risk of collisions with other space objects:

(i) Australia is currently reviewing its regulatory framework for space activities, including arrangements for a possible future domestic launch capability and the avoidance of risks relating to on-orbit collision and space debris;

(f) International cooperation measures in outer space activities, including measures aimed at promoting capacity-building and disseminating data for sustainable economic and social development, that are consistent with existing international commitments and obligations:

(i) The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation has a long history of international cooperation on space activities, particularly with regard to promoting capacity-building and disseminating data for economic and social development, including through:

a. Participation in global intergovernmental coordination bodies such as CEOS, which Australia chaired in 2016, and GEO;

b. Collaboration with international astronomy institutes on the development and deployment of state-of-the-art telescope components. This includes our role as a member of the international Square Kilometre Array radio telescope project, a collaborative effort of 11 countries that promotes capacity-building through non-science outcomes including education, industry, and economic return;

c. The joint development of initiatives relating to the management of satellite imagery and other Earth observation data, such as the Australian Geoscience Data Cube, the GEO Global Forest Observation Initiative and the GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring initiative (through the “Rangeland and pasture productivity” programme), which have been shared internationally to benefit the global community;

d. Partnership with international space agencies including NASA and ESA on spacecraft tracking and communications;

(ii) Geoscience Australia is working with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific to build capacity and expertise in satellite positioning and geodetic infrastructure through a programme of regular regional workshops and training;

(iii) Geoscience Australia is working with the Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council to build capacity and expertise in the Pacific region in satellite positioning and geodetic infrastructure. Members include the national geospatial and surveying authorities of Pacific island countries and territories;

(iv) Geoscience Australia is an active participant in the international CEOS and is working through that forum to develop and promote the concepts of analysis-ready data and data cubes. Those initiatives will increase the ease with which countries can access and apply data from space to address national and international challenges including the Sustainable Development Goals.

China

[Original: Chinese and English]

[22 March 2017]

China attaches great importance to the role of the United Nations in maintaining peace, security and sustainability in outer space.

Since the start of human space exploration and the use of outer space, the United Nations has adopted the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and the General Assembly has adopted a number of resolutions on the matter. Laying the groundwork for the existing international legal system for space exploration and use, the above-mentioned instruments have played an important role in regulating space activities, promoting the peaceful use of outer space and ensuring the exploration of space for the benefit of all human beings, and have paved the way for the further regulation of space activities.

Over the years, the relevant United Nations agencies have conducted a great deal of work on transparency and confidence-building measures in space activities. The Secretary-General has established the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, which in 2012 and 2013 prepared a report (A/68/189) in which it made recommendations on voluntary transparency and confidence-building measures in space activities. The report has gained extensive international support and has helped to enhance international consensus and promote peace and security in outer space.

China attaches great importance to the role of the United Nations in promoting transparency and confidence-building measures in space activities, and has been an active participant in relevant United Nations work:

(a) China has co-sponsored the General Assembly resolutions on transparency and confidence-building measures in space activities. As a member of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities, from 2012 to 2013, China made positive contributions to the conclusion of the final report of the Group. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/53, entitled “Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities”, China has submitted its views on transparency and confidence-building measures in space activities, which will be annexed to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its 72nd session;

(b) For many years, China and the Russian Federation, along with many other countries, have worked vigorously to promote the negotiation of a treaty on preventing the weaponization of outer space at the Conference on Disarmament and proposed two draft versions. China is of the view that the commitment of countries to refraining from placing weapons in outer space and preventing the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space would be one of the most important transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities. In 2006, China and the Russian Federation jointly submitted to the Conference on Disarmament working

paper CD/1778, providing detailed ideas on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(c) In 2016, China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America made a joint proposal to the United Nations Disarmament Commission on the inclusion of an agenda item on space with a view to enabling the Disarmament Commission to make substantive progress and play its role in safeguarding space security;

(d) China has been a constructive participant in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees, and has actively participated in activities within the United Nations system relating to space law capacity-building and outreach. China has actively participated in the discussion on the guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with a view to promoting peace, security and long-term sustainability in outer space. In November 2014, China, the United Nations and the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization co-hosted a workshop on space law in Beijing;

(e) China is of the view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is one of the important platforms supporting Member States in the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities. The Committee and its Subcommittees have established mechanisms enabling member States to exchange views on progress made in space utilization and discuss relevant technical and legal issues, including the long-term sustainability of space activities, space debris, space weather and near-Earth space objects. The Committee will continue to play a positive role in promoting the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, as the peaceful use and exploration of outer space will proceed further;

(f) China supports the joint session of the First and Fourth Committees of the General Assembly, the aim of which is to promote communication and coordination among the relevant outer space working mechanisms within the United Nations framework, deepen understanding of space-related issues among the international community and facilitate joint efforts by all countries to maintain security and long-term sustainability in outer space;

(g) China actively supports international discussions on space security. China has jointly sponsored the annual space security conference organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, which provides participating countries with a platform to explore ways to address space security challenges. In 2015, China, together with the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Russian Federation and the United States, held the third Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum Workshop on Space Security with a view to raising awareness of and promoting regional cooperation on the peaceful use of outer space among the countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

China is of the view that appropriate transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities are conducive to enhancing mutual trust, reducing miscalculation and promoting cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space, and is to some extent conducive to preventing the weaponization of outer space and the verification of compliance with a future international legal instrument in that regard. However, transparency and confidence-building measures are not legally binding and are inadequate for plugging the loopholes in existing international legal instruments. Those measures can be a useful complement to a negotiated international legal instrument on preventing the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space, but cannot replace such an instrument.

China maintains that the best way to prevent the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space is to conclude a new international legal instrument through negotiation. China and the Russian Federation jointly submitted to the Conference on Disarmament a draft for a treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons

in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects (CD/1839) in February 2008, and an updated version of that draft (CD/1985) in June 2014. In September 2015, in response to certain comments on the draft, China and the Russian Federation jointly submitted another working paper (CD/2042). The draft treaty reflects the call of the international community for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and the international aspiration to address the most pressing threat to space security. It is the most mature space security initiative taken, and is based on an extensive international consensus. It is hoped that the Conference on Disarmament could conduct substantive work based on the draft and start negotiations at an early date.

As a nation actively engaged in space utilization activities, China has implemented a series of transparency and confidence-building measures to maintain peace, security and long-term sustainability in outer space:

(a) China has actively exchanged information on its space policy. It has issued four white papers, in 2000, 2006, 2011 and 2016, each entitled “China’s space activities”. In the latest of those, which was published in December 2016, China reiterated its position on the peaceful use of outer space, and its opposition to the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space, and elaborated in detail on the purposes and principles of its space activities and major tasks in the following five years, testifying to the transparency in its space policy, programmes and activities;

(b) China acceded to the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space in December 1988. It has faithfully implemented the obligations of that Convention and registered the information regarding objects launched into space accordingly. In 2001, China issued legislation entitled “Provisions and procedures for the registration of space objects” to regulate its international and domestic registration of space objects. In 2002, China issued interim measures on the administration of permits for civil space launch projects. Moreover, China usually publicizes major launches in the media or coordinates such launches with relevant countries or international organizations;

(c) China attaches great importance to the safety of nuclear power sources in outer space. China has applied strict safety measures to the use of radioactive isotopes in the operation of Chang’e-3, and given a presentation on the subject at a meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. As part of the ongoing preparations for the Chang’e-4 mission, China also provides for the use of radioactive isotopes in outer space, as announced by the delegation of China at the 59th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. China will carry on the safety work in connection with nuclear power sources in outer space in accordance with the relevant United Nations principles and frameworks;

(d) China is highly concerned by the risks caused to space assets and activities in recent years by space debris and orbital congestion, and has held regular bilateral exchanges on space debris, the avoidance of satellite collisions and other issues;

(e) China attaches great importance to space debris mitigation and spacecraft protection. As an active participant in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, China has played a positive role in the formulation of relevant international norms. In the meantime, China has made due contributions to international efforts by improving its own debris mitigation capacity and mechanism, and has set national technical standards by issuing legislation entitled “Administrative measures for space debris mitigation and spacecraft protection” and “National standards for the requirements for space debris mitigation”;

(f) China holds the view that all countries have an equal right to explore, develop and utilize outer space peacefully, and stands for the strengthening of

international space exchanges and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, the peaceful utilization of outer space and inclusive development. China has concluded over 100 bilateral space cooperation agreements or memorandums of understanding with over 30 countries and has launched satellites for over 10 countries. Currently China is actively promoting international cooperation in relation to the BeiDou Navigation System and remote-sensing satellite constellation among Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (the BRICS countries). China is also dedicated to promoting space cooperation within the framework of transparency and confidence-building measures of the United Nations and the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization with a view to sharing among all countries the dividends brought by the advancement of space technology and promoting the common development and long-term sustainability of space utilization by all humankind;

(g) China has actively and voluntarily invited other countries to carry out launch site visits on its territory. It has invited officials and experts from around the world to its space launch sites to observe space launches on many occasions.

China stands ready to work with all countries to promote the prevention of the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space and explore practical and feasible transparency and confidence-building measures so as to continuously contribute to peace, security and long-term sustainability in outer space.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: English]
[7 April 2017]

Introduction

The Government of the United Arab Emirates views the outer space environment and the immense resources it holds as a critical component of the human endeavour in the twenty-first century and centuries to follow. It recognizes fully the significant role outer space activities play in social, economic, scientific and technological development, as well as international peace and security. From communications to financial operations, from farming to weather forecasting and from environmental monitoring to navigation, surveillance and treaty monitoring, outer space resources play a key role in the activities of all nations.

Over the past four decades, the United Arab Emirates has been able to build a strong economy, solid infrastructure and robust national competencies, which have made the country the regional leader in space activities it is today, capable of contributing to the exploration of outer space before the golden jubilee of its foundation. The United Arab Emirates now has the largest space sector in the region in terms of both diversity and size of investments. The sector is driven by several leading space centres, institutions, and companies.

The year 2014 marked a milestone in the history of the country's space sector. In August of that year the decision was made to establish the United Arab Emirates Space Agency, the first of its kind in the region. The decision coincided with the country's leadership announcing its intention to participate in the international efforts to explore Mars and its atmosphere, becoming the first Arab country and the first Islamic country to send a probe into space. The probe is scheduled to reach the red planet in 2020. These two announcements marked a turning point, bolstering the national space sector and driving its sustainable growth.

Over the past few decades, the industry has developed rapidly in terms of space technology, the number of space applications and the amount of space actors and users. Consequently, the outer space environment is becoming increasingly vital but also congested, contested and competitive.

In that regard the United Arab Emirates intends to promote national and international efforts to:

- (a) Improve the planning, access to and efficient use of radio frequency spectrum and orbital slots;
- (b) Support transparency, openness, coordination and information-sharing regarding space operations and activities;
- (c) Improve the safety and security of space activities and the space environment, including cybersecurity and the security of terrestrial infrastructure;
- (d) Mitigate space debris;
- (e) Increase space situational awareness operations and capabilities;
- (f) Assure access to, in, and from space, as well as other efforts to address issues that affect the sustainability of space activities.

That intention is clearly stressed as one of the five goals stated in the national space policy of the United Arab Emirates.

The national space policy was issued in September 2016. It defines the goals to be achieved and the principles and approach to be followed in developing and sustaining the country's national space sector. The United Arab Emirates administration is delighted to attach a summary of the principles and goals guiding its national space policy, in line with the practice recommended by the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities.

Views of the United Arab Emirates on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts and the special report by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

As requested by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its circular dated 29 January 2017, the United Arab Emirates hereby presents its views on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (A/68/189) and the special report by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (A/AC.105/1116):

(a) The United Arab Emirates highly appreciates the valuable work done and the fruitful efforts made by the Group of Governmental Experts in developing its report (A/68/189) and identifying the recommended transparency and confidence-building measures set out in it;

(b) The United Arab Emirates highly appreciates the valuable work done and the fruitful efforts made by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities in developing its report (A/AC.105/1116), which defines the role of United Nations entities in supporting Member States in implementing recommended transparency and confidence-building measures;

(c) The United Arab Emirates welcomes the following key general acknowledgements from the above documents:

- (i) Outer space activities play a critical role in social, economic, scientific and technological development, as well as in international peace and security;
- (ii) The outer space environment is becoming increasingly vital but also congested, contested and competitive;
- (iii) International cooperation and coordination is essential to overcome the challenges faced in ensuring the long-term sustainability of space activities and stability in the space environment;

(d) The United Arab Emirates notes the importance of the following conclusions from the documents:

- (i) The transparency and confidence-building measures recommended by the Group of Governmental Experts are a good reference point and provide States

and space actors of all types with a set of practices that can significantly enhance international cooperation on outer space activities by reducing, or even eliminating, misunderstandings, mistrust and miscalculations with regard to the activities and intentions of States in outer space;

(ii) The need for transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities has increased significantly over the past two decades; and that such measures should be aimed at increasing the security, safety and sustainability of outer space;

(iii) Transparency and confidence-building measures are non-legally binding voluntary measures for outer space activities. They should complement the existing international legal framework pertaining to space activities and should not undermine existing legal obligations or hamper the lawful use of outer space, particularly by emerging space actors;

(iv) States should review the proposed transparency and confidence-building measures and implement them through relevant national mechanisms on a voluntary basis, to the greatest extent practicable and in a manner that is consistent with the national interests of States;

(v) Various United Nations entities already support Member States in the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities within existing mandates;

(vi) United Nations entities will continue to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(vii) Having an effective coordination mechanism between the Office for Outer Space Affairs and other appropriate United Nations entities is essential in order to promote effective implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures;

(viii) The Office for Outer Space Affairs assumes, and will continue to assume on behalf of the Secretary-General those responsibilities and obligations that were assigned to it under international space law, including:

a. Implementing the Secretary-General's obligations, at the request of Member States, in sharing information that would facilitate voluntary visits, or even organize the logistics of such visits;

b. Implementing the Secretary-General's obligations under the treaties to maintain the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space;

c. Disseminating of information on outer space activities, including on the discovery of harmful phenomena and on forecast natural hazards in outer space;

d. Facilitating the exchange of information on the possible re-entry of a nuclear-powered space object as part of the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations;

e. Providing regular notifications relating to risk reduction in outer space activities;

(e) The United Arab Emirates endorses the practice that the Office for Outer Space Affairs, using open source data, disseminates notifications under the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, in particular regarding pre-launch notifications and space-launch vehicle launches and test flights, the planned launch notification window, the launch area and the planned direction. Hence, the United Arab Emirates proposes, as part of the follow-up to the two documents, to recommend increasing the resources allocated to the Office for Outer Space Affairs in that regard;

(f) The United Arab Emirates would like to stress that it is important that the Office for Outer Space Affairs apply sufficient information security practices in receiving and disseminating information and notifications;

(g) The United Arab Emirates acknowledges that, as set out in the documents, the capacity-building programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, which covers space science and technology applications as well as space law and policy, constitutes a foundation for promoting transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(h) The United Arab Emirates also acknowledges that, as set out in the documents, Member States generally do not provide information on their military outer space policies and expenditure for the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms or its database containing information on confidence-building measures relating to conventional arms provided by Member States. Hence the necessity, scope and/or method of implementation of such measures may require reconsideration;

(i) The United Arab Emirates believes that it is important that the work conducted under the Working Group on Long Term Sustainability for Space activities take into account the outcomes of the study by the Group of Governmental Experts and the recommended transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, with the objective of ensuring alignment, avoiding duplication of efforts, and complementing the recommended measures;

(j) The United Arab Emirates is of the view that it may be useful to consider new trends in space activities in the updates of the documents, such as:

- (i) Suborbital flights;
- (ii) Utilization of space resources;
- (iii) Rising concerns about cybersecurity;

(k) It was noted that there was no mention of the valuable work done under the Operational Satellite Applications Programme;

(l) Finally, the United Arab Emirates affirms the importance of:

- (i) Alignment between the Expert Group on Space Weather and the work conducted by the World Meteorological Organization regarding space weather;
- (ii) A further increase in the role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in activities related to the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue.

Conclusion

The United Arab Emirates strongly believes that:

(a) Outer space activities play a critical role in social, economic, scientific and technological development, as well as in international peace and security;

(b) The outer space environment is becoming increasingly vital but also congested, contested and competitive;

(c) International cooperation and coordination is essential to overcome the challenges faced in ensuring the long-term sustainability of space activities and the stability of the space environment.

The United Arab Emirates expresses its appreciation for the valuable work conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities in developing their reports with regard to recommended transparency and confidence-building measures, as provided in the two important documents mentioned above.

Having reviewed those documents, the United Arab Emirates has provided its views and feedback as clearly set out in this submission.

Finally, the United Arab Emirates provides a summary of the principles and goals guiding its national space policy (see table), in line with the practice recommended by the Group of Governmental Experts.

Summary of the national space policy of the United Arab Emirates

The ultimate goal of the national space policy of the United Arab Emirates is to build a strong and sustainable space sector that supports and protects national interests and vital industries, contributes to the diversification and growth of the economy, boosts specialized competencies of the United Arab Emirates, develops scientific and technological capabilities, engrains a culture of innovation and national pride, and strengthens the status and role of the United Arab Emirates regionally and globally.

Table

United Arab Emirates: summary of the national space policy

<i>Principles</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>Enablers</i>
Enhance the lives of our citizens	Expand the utilization of space to protect and support vital sectors	Continuous awareness of the importance of space
Support the national interests of the United Arab Emirates	Develop a sustainable, competitive and innovative commercial space industry	Qualified United Arab Emirates space professionals
Support growth and diversification of our economy	Conduct scientific space missions	Effective and attractive space regulatory environment
Promote collaboration and support the status of the United Arab Emirates	Promote a safe and stable space environment	Management of radio frequency and orbital slots
Respect international laws and treaties	Establish and expand the country's leadership in space	Science, technology and innovation programmes
		Collaborations, coordination and partnerships
		Adequate investment and financial support
		Supporting facilities and infrastructure