



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 July 2020

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Note verbale dated 28 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations (Vienna) presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to principle 4 of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (General Assembly resolution [47/68](#)) on behalf of the Government of the United States of America.

Principle 4 provides that a State launching a nuclear power source into outer space shall inform the Secretary-General on how States may obtain the results of a safety assessment prior to that launch. Respecting the spirit of principle 4, the United States of America is pleased to provide the information below.

The Mars 2020 mission is scheduled for launch in July 2020 to conduct scientific research on the surface of Mars. The Mars 2020 rover is to carry one multi-mission radioisotope thermoelectric generator as its primary source of electrical power to operate and conduct science on the surface of Mars.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States of America has conducted a thorough environmental assessment and an extensive safety analysis for the Mars 2020 mission. The results of the safety assessment are publicly available and can be obtained on the Internet at <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/news/newsroom/eis/> or by contacting George Tahu, Programme Executive, Science Mission Directorate, United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC. Mr. Tahu may be reached by telephone at (+1-202) 358-0874 or by email at george.tahu@nasa.gov.

