

Discussion paper by Switzerland

*to be discussed at informal consultations held in the margin of the
58th Session of the Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS*

Wednesday 3 April 2019, 13:30 – 15:00

Room C5, 7th Floor, Vienna International Center

Possible further work on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities

General objective of further work

To enhance the safety of space operations and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Possible areas of further work

1. Monitor the implementation of the 21 LTSSA guidelines and consider procedures for their revision, as needed;
2. Examine options for collaborative information-sharing with the aim of ensuring the safety and sustainability of space operations:
 - a. Identify and address issues associated with the sharing of relevant information and analyses, and with the associated interpretation of information required to support the safety of space operations;
 - b. Establish common criteria for the prediction of the trajectories of space objects, the assessment of conjunctions, and the probability of collisions;
 - c. Identify priorities and long-term objectives for standardization in international information sharing concerning objects and events in near-Earth space;
3. Identify and address challenges posed by large constellations;
4. Identify and address issues associated with rendezvous and proximity operations including active debris removal and on orbit servicing activities;
5. Identify ideas and approaches used in the air, maritime, and land domain to be applied for concepts of international space traffic management;
6. Examine options for “norms of behavior” in outer space to support stability, safety and identification of risks (examples may be drawn from existing norms of behavior in other domains);
7. Identify and address other topics relevant to enhancing safety, transparency and sustainability of space activities.