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Assuring a Safe, Secure, and Sustainable Space Environment for Space Activities (4)

Author: Ms. Amber Charlesworth  
U.S. Department of State, United States, charleswortha@state.gov

Mr. Ken Hodgkins  
Office of Space and Advanced Technology, United States, hodgkinskd@state.gov

Mr. Richard Buenneke  
U.S. Department of State, United States, buennekerh@state.gov

STRENGTHENING STABILITY IN OUTER SPACE FROM THE BOTTOM UP: THE ROLE OF  
GUIDELINES FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES

**Abstract**

Over the past four years, the international community has made substantive progress in cooperative efforts to strengthen stability and ensure the long-term sustainability of space activities. In July 2013, the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities issued a consensus report. This study's recommendations, which are now a topic for further consideration in several UN bodies, provide a unique opportunity to advance consensus on the importance and priority of pragmatic measures that can be implemented by States. The GGE study specifically supports efforts of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities. Established in June 2010, the LTS working group is taking a "bottom up" approach to develop guidelines based on the best practices of government and commercial space entities. This paper will discuss opportunities for the implementation of specific transparency and confidence-building measures in bilateral and multilateral contexts, with particular focus on the role of voluntary guidelines for sustainability that can be implemented by States and private sector entities.