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STATUS UPDATE ON THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSIONS IN UN COPUOS

Abstract

The UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) and its two Subcommittees have addressed various aspects of space sustainability under a number of agenda items for several years. In 2010, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) established a Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. The Working Group is mandated to produce a set of voluntary, non-binding guidelines to promote space sustainability. In 2016, the Working Group adopted the first twelve guidelines for space sustainability, with a view to completing a full Compendium of UN guidelines for space sustainability in 2018. This paper will describe the progress of the discussions in the Working Group during 2017 and also some of the challenges facing delegations as the negotiations on the guidelines begin to draw to a close.