

31st IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)  
Assuring a Safe, Secure and Sustainable Environment for Space Activities (4)

Author: Dr. Peter Martinez  
University of Cape Town, South Africa

FIRST FRUITS OF THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY DISCUSSIONS IN UN COPUOS

**Abstract**

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 was mandated to produce a set of voluntary, non-binding guidelines to promote a sustainable space environment for space activities. In June 2016, the Working Group agreed on the first twelve guidelines for space sustainability. In February 2018, the Working Group agreed on a further nine guidelines and on the text of a preamble that sets the context for the implementation of these guidelines, which are to be compiled in a first edition of a Compendium of UN COPUOS guidelines for space sustainability. This paper will review these first fruits of the UN COPUOS discussions on space sustainability and discuss some of the issues related to the implementation of these twenty-one agreed guidelines.