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THE UAE APPROACH IN ADOPTING THE LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES

Abstract

In this contribution, the author would like to present how the UAE has made the Long Term Sustainability Guidelines for Space Activities at the heart of all its regulatory and policy instruments.

The UN Committee On Peaceful Use of Outer Space succeeded in June 2016, after years of studies and negotiations, to endorse the so called 1st set of Guidelines for Long Term Sustainability for Space Activities. In February 2018 the WG was able to endorse the 2nd set of Guidelines. Recognizing the importance of these guidelines and that the value of these guidelines can only be realized by more countries applying them thru their national regulatory frameworks and mechanism; the UAE has indeed adopted a unique approach to promote the implementation by these guidelines within its space activities. The approach includes: raising awareness among space industry about these guidelines and engaging them in providing their views; make contribution to drafting these guidelines at international level; reflecting the endorsed ones into the National Space Policy; mapping these guidelines into national law and regulation (under approval). The author believes that the UAE approach, led by the UAE Space Agency, in promoting the LTS could be of interest of other nations and other members of the space community, and hence will provide thru the paper more details for various elements of this approach.