National Statement

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

Madam Chair,

I would like to first acknowledge your appointment as Chair, and the ongoing work of the Secretariat under Simonetta di Poppo's excellent leadership.

New Zealand continues to value the opportunity to be able to contribute alongside, and learn from, our distinguished colleagues in this Committee.

Madam Chair

Within the last four years, New Zealand has become host to a proven, commercial frequent launcher; we have joined this Committee, passed national space legislation and set up a space agency, widened our international space science cooperation, and just last year announced our first national space mission.

In this short amount of time we have learned more about the tremendous opportunities offered by the rapid development of space technology, and the growth of an innovative global space industry. At the same time, we have learned more about the challenges that these trends present.

Madam Chair,

New Zealand is committed to taking a safe, sustainable and responsible approach to space activities. As our space industry grows, New Zealand is seeking to:

- Open access to space
- Apply data in innovative ways to shared challenges, and
- Take a pioneering and transparent government approach.

Opening access to space

The pace of launches from New Zealand is rapidly increasing, enabling a highly diverse range of customers to access space, including a high school. Another launch company, Dawn Aerospace, has announced it will commence sub-orbital launches from New Zealand later this year.

We are supporting other technologies that are also critical for sustainable access to space, such as small-sat propulsion and space situational awareness.

Last year, the LeoLabs Kiwi Space Radar became operational. This New Zealand-based radar will enable the measuring of debris and satellites as small as 2cm in Low Earth orbit.

This reinforces the important role that the private sector will play promoting sustainable use of space. Technologies operated by the private sector such as this radar not only improve safety through the tracking of small debris, they are also the basis of safe activities in space, whether that is very small satellites, or activities such as debris removal and on-orbit servicing.

New Zealand is working with LeoLabs to monitor all objects launched from New Zealand. With this service, we fulfil our responsibilities as a launching state to ensure satellites are safely operated, and remain compliant with their permits.

Last year we were proud to announce New Zealand's first national space mission. We are partnering with the NGO Environmental Defence Fund to develop, launch and operate MethaneSat. Methane Sat will monitor methane emissions as part of our government's wider commitment to addressing

climate change. For us, this further signals the importance we place on the sustainable use of space for sustainability here on Earth.

Long-term sustainability guidelines

Madam Chair

We welcomed the agreement on the LTS Guidelines and preamble here in COPUOS and at the UN General Assembly as a significant achievement of international cooperation. These guidelines show the value of this Committee, and reflect that a multilateral approach to space sustainability is both important and viable.

With the high-level guidelines agreed, it is essential that we maintain momentum. We look forward to the formation of the Working Group at this session, the selection of the Bureau from an excellent set of candidates. At the same time, New Zealand has started immediately with national implementation of the guidelines and we are undertaking a review to identify areas where more work is needed.

There is no doubt about the urgency and importance of building on the agreement of the guidelines. The pace of technological change is presenting opportunities and challenges, and with the rapid increase in the number of satellites being put into orbit the time to act on space sustainability is now.

New Zealand is committed to taking a transparent approach to our space activities and implementation of the Long-term Sustainability Guidelines. That is why in 2019 we began publishing information about payloads we have permitted for launch from New Zealand.

And that is also why in 2019 we announced a set of principles that will guide all of our regulatory decision-making for space activities. These principles are:

- Safety
- Sustainability
- Responsibility

Space 2030 (from 2019 text)

We are grateful to the Bureau for their work on the Space2030 Agenda and Implementation Plan and look forward to this being concluded. New Zealand particularly welcomes the inclusion of text on:

- the need for the development of global norms and standards that take into account the changing nature of space activities
- transitioning to a low-emission economy and addressing the effects of climate change
- supporting the needs of developing countries

Close

Thank you for allowing us to take the floor. We look forward to a productive session.

Statement on Long-term Sustainability Guidelines: Agenda item 13

Madam Chair,

We welcome the agreement on the preamble and 21 Long-term Sustainability Guidelines as a significant achievement of international cooperation. The ability for COPUOS to agree these guidelines shows the value of a multilateral approach to space sustainability that we hope continues as we build on what we have already achieved.

As host to a commercial launch service, New Zealand is already working to implement the guidelines in our space regulatory regime. Although our space legislation is only three years old, we will also have regard to the Guidelines as we review the legislation and space regulation in the coming years.

As a launching state, New Zealand takes our responsibilities as a gateway to space seriously. For this reason, we recently announced payload permitting principles which will guide our regulation of space activities. These principles are: safety, responsibility, and sustainability.

There is no doubt about the urgency and importance of building on the agreement of the guidelines, and we look forward to working constructively with Committee members to agree the details of the Working Group.

For New Zealand, we see four necessary components to maintain our momentum:

- **Effective implementation** of the voluntary guidelines at the national level.
    - The guidelines are currently broad principles. To implement them effectively we need to ensure they are as relevant and clear as possible for all space actors, including industry.

- A process **facilitating international cooperation** on implementing the guidelines:
    - This information sharing will be necessary to share experiences from implementation, assist emerging space nations, and ensure consistency of application.
    - We note also that although implementation is at the national level, the global nature of the space industry means that international cooperation is essential.
        - For example: as a launching state, New Zealand works with other governments to ensure that all satellites launched from New Zealand are registered, and comply with their own domestic regulations and laws.

- A mechanism for **including the views of industry**. Industry are at the forefront of new space technologies, and although subject to national regulation they are significant space actors in their own right and think carefully about these issues. One industry organisation worth particular mention is the Space Safety Coalition, which is developing best practices with the Guidelines at their core.

- Given the rapid pace of technological change, we need to be open to **reflecting on lessons learned from implementation, including any additional areas where new guidelines** may be necessary for the space industry.
    - Many of these new technologies have potential to help manage the increasing quantity of satellites being launched, and manage the increasing quantity of debris that is occurring at the same time.

We look forward to working together constructively to develop a terms of reference, method of work and work plan for the new working group. Thank you.