

# THE CURRENT AND FUTURE EFFORTS FOR REACHING LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF OUTER SPACE: ENCOURAGED MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SPACE AND EARTH ENVIRONMENT AGAINST POLLUTION BY SPACE DEBRIS

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## Abstract

Man-made space debris has become one of the most discussed issues concerning the further development of outer space activities. The accumulation of such space debris in LEO and GEO orbits has been caused by a number of factors. As a result, the world space community has realized that this problem features such a serious risk that can probably make the space exploration unfeasible for generations. A number of recent proposals for a new international agreement on space stability is presently on the table. The UNCOPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines endorsed by General Assembly and its resolution 62/217 represent the current efforts to be implemented in national policies. Likewise, the proposals for the creation of a Space Traffic Management and of an International Space Situational Awareness (SSA), as well as techniques to remove debris and Role of Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures (TCBM) have been achieved for long-term sustainability of the outer space. On the other hand, obstacles in accomplishing successful proposals for this scenario have failed due to absence of consensus by the space faring nations to turn the UNCOPUOS Space Debris Guidelines into a set of principles to be adopted by the UN General Assembly. Consequently, this paper has the role of analyzing and encouraging broader international cooperation measures and proposals concerning this important issue in the world space community.