

CANADA

Good afternoon,

Please find below the statement Canada will read for topic 8 at the OEWG on reducing space threats through norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviour.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. On topic 8, which we are discussing, Canada would like to offer a few brief points for consideration.

- We believe the improvement or implementation of any process related to greater communication and information exchange is essential for understanding intentions and reducing miscalculation. This becomes all the more imperative during times of heightened tension.
- In the paper that Canada has submitted for this working group's consideration, we proposed that States should establish channels of communication to provide notifications regarding activities of space objects on their registry.
 - Such notifications could include instances where the orbital parameters of a space object need to be changed, for example.
 - The aim of this is to increase transparency, thereby reducing misunderstandings and misperceptions.
- As we mentioned earlier this week, along with many other delegations, we are fully supportive of advance notification of launches, in accordance with the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, and coordination with states that might be affected by re-entering debris that could be a risk to people and property.
- We have already heard several delegations propose and express support for the idea of national contact points to facilitate information exchange, and Canada would certainly welcome further discussions on this. To ensure the creation of such contact points does not create a burden on states, we would encourage the leveraging of existing mechanisms, if and where possible.
- Finally, in the spirit of greater information exchange, Canada appreciates the proposal put forward by the United Arab Emirates to invite observers from UNOOSA to attend the OEWG, and would welcome further consideration on this. While COPUOS and the OEWG deal with distinct issues, we can not operate in silos. Greater communication allows us to avoid duplication, and stay better informed of what each body is doing.