

Topic 8: Norms, rules and principles relating to information exchange and risk reduction notifications related to outer space activities as well as to consultative mechanisms

Thank you chair,

I would like to make a comment on topic 8 Norms, rules and principles relating to information exchange and risk reduction notifications related to outer space activities as well as to consultative mechanisms.

First, we thank all contributors that have provided their views on aspects of Space Situational Awareness and information sharing. Many states have stressed the need to implement previously agreed TCBM:s, including as laid outlined in the 2013 GGE report. States have also emphasized that TCBM:s provide an opportunity to support the behavioural approach of this OEWG.

- Furthermore, discussions have pointed to the need to further develop mechanisms for exchange of communication and consultations, to increase transparency. Several states including France, Germany and the Philippines, have presented interesting ideas, which we will study in detail, such as the sharing of open-access space situational awareness data and data catalogues, de-confliction measures, communication channels and sharing of best practices from space operations.
- The Swedish government is continuing to invest in the space sector. We share information with UN member states and observers on the latest developments regarding the investments in the ground infrastructure at Esrange Space Center. A few weeks ago, a new launch pad was inaugurated at the Esrange Space Center, providing Sweden and mainland Europe with capacity to launch small satellites into orbit. Since 2020, Esrange has tested rocket engines and reusable space technology.

- In this context, Sweden also continues our information exchange on risk reduction and providing notifications. We engage in information sharing on space launch vehicle programs, including prelaunch notifications, which is already established practice under the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC). We encourage all states that have not already done so, to subscribe to the HCoC and to fully implement its provisions.
- We wish to join other states here in the OEWS, in voicing our opinion that consultations and prior consent when conducting rendez-vous and proximity operations are necessary and should constitute a norm. Elements such as information and communication about the intentions of such operations must be a high priority of the OEWS when developing a norm in this regard.
- Thank you Mr. Chair.