

# Sustainability Aspects in the UN Space Treaties and the LTS Guidelines

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# Structure

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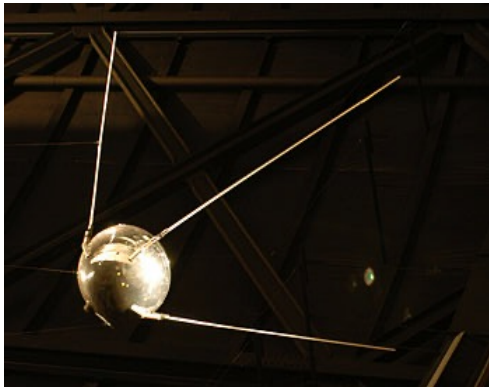
# I. Introduction

Facts: Quantity and quality of space activities increased exponentially

Examples: Multiple launches (145 in 2021), large constellations, space resources activities

Negative impact to environment

Reaction: new regulatory and technical instruments to prevent and remediate the negative impact



## II. Legal Framework

### UN International treaties:

1967 OST: Article IX, due regard, forward and backward contamination (COSPAR)

1968 ARRA: notification of space objects returned to the Earth

1975 Registration Convention: registration of launched space objects

1979 Moon Agreement: environmental provisions (Article 7)

### Recommendatory instruments:

ISO standards (i.e. No 24 113- debris, 26 900-orbit data)

2007 UN Space Debris Mitigation Standards

2019 UN Long-term Sustainability Guidelines

### National legislation:

Numerous examples of environmental provisions:

i.e. 2005 Belgium, 2006 Netherlands, 2011 Austria, 2018 Finland, 2019 Portugal...



### III. Long-term Sustainability Guidelines

#### Genesis:

2010 started in ST-SC UN Copuos, WG established

2016 UN COPUOS adopted the first set of 12 guidelines

2018 consensus on Preamble and 9 additional guidelines

2019 21 voluntary guidelines were adopted by the UN COPUOS

2019 new WG established (ST-SC) on 7 further guidelines



#### Content: 4 Chapters A-D

#### **Chapter A: Policy and Regulatory Framework**

Sustainability: Ability to conduct space activities indefinitely

Addressees: States

Blue: not in the UN/ ITU Treaties

A.1: **Should adopt national regulatory framework supporting sustainability**

A.2: **Its elements: Implementation of space debris mitigation measures, addressing the risks to environment, minimizing environmental damages, use of ISO standards**

A.3: Supervision of non-governmental entities: **Ensuring sustainability through their structure, means, technical competencies, procedures; assessment of risks**

A.4: Rational use of frequency spectrum

A.5: Registering space objects: **prior to launch**, information on the change of status, **on separation from the main object.**

## IV. Conclusion

1. UN Treaties' sustainability provisions are of general character, are binding
2. LTS Guidelines are more detailed, go further than UN space treaties, i.e. supervision, registration, have recommendatory character
3. Recommendatory rules can be transformed into binding ones:
  - can develop into customary international law;
  - can become part of national law through reception: i.e. Belgium Royal Decree implementing the 2005 Law, Article 8, impact assessment - reference to UN recommendations
  - can become part of national law through adaptation: i.e. 2020 Luxembourg Space Activity Law, Articles 6-11, conditions for authorization
4. Developments to follow: ISO standards ([www.unoosa.org](http://www.unoosa.org))

