

PRESENTATION

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OVERVIEW

Since China was elected as the member of UNCOUPOUS in 1980, China has been actively involved into the activities of this international body, including being the parties of outer space treaty, rescue agreement, liability convention and registration convention. Additionally, China has carried out international collaboration with many countries to boost the space industry.

Since LTS was put forward from 2010, China has been actively involved into the discussions in this regard. Since LTS was listed as the independent subject of Subcommittee of S& T of UNCOUPOUS from 2010, Chinese representatives have delivered annual speeches on this issue at the Subcommittee. Since 4 Experts Groups were established, China has nominated respective contact persons.

However, on the issue of LTS, China has not submitted any documents to UNCOUPOUS, nor made any introduction of S& T subjects. When relevant speeches were delivered, China just mentioned LTS very generally and the basic attitude has been supportive of LTS.

CHINESE REALIZATION OF LTS' IMPORTANCE

In Dec.2011, during the celebration of successful docking between Tiangong-1 space laboratory module and Shenzhou-8 spaceship, President Hu Jintao pointed out that Chinese space activities must be on the way of sustainability.

Another example is that in Oct. 2010, Chinese delegation made a speech on the topic of International Cooperation in Peaceful Use of Outer Space at the Fourth Committee of GA. China pointed out that space activities should be coordinated with space environment in conjunction with space sustainability.

The reason for that attitude is that as a spacefaring country, China has the interest in space sustainability.

CHINESE CONCERNS OVER LTS

First, LTS should not be used to preclude developing countries to explore and use outer space. From the legal perspective, OST has established the basic principles of space activities, such as exploration and use of outer space shall be the province of all mankind. Every country has free access to outer space. Industrial countries should not lay the higher threshold for the developing countries to carry out their space activities. Good thing is that Working Group of LTS reiterated the importance of developing countries and established the subject of Capacity Building in Developing Countries. But this subject has not been adopted by any experts group.

Second, how to coordinate the relationship among LTS working group, experts group and current international entity. These entity includes ITU, IADC, conference on disarmament, etc..

Subcommittee of S & T already pointed out that working group should find the fields that international entity has not been involved in.

ESSENCES of LTS

Use of outer space in a peaceful, secure, equal and efficient way. Ideas could be found in OST.

Legal grounds could be found at OST.

Secure use means the security of space mission and activities. (ART. 9)

Equal: all countries are entitled to using outer space on a unbiased basis.

Efficient: commercial use of outer space

All in all, LTS is the development of OST, especially on the commercialization issues.