

34th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
Assuring a Safe, Secure and Sustainable Environment for Space Activities (4)

Author: Dr. Peter Martinez
Secure World Foundation, United States, pmartinez@swfound.org

THE UN COPUOS LTS GUIDELINES AND SPACE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Abstract

In 2019, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) adopted a set of twenty-one guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (LTS Guidelines). These guidelines cover the policy and regulatory aspects of space activities as well as aspects pertaining to the safety of space operations and they are intended to provide guidance to States on how to conduct space activities in a manner that meets their needs without compromising the ability of other countries also to meet their needs for space benefits, or indeed the ability of future generations to meet their needs. While the focus of the LTS Guidelines is not space traffic management (STM) per se, there are aspects of the guidelines that are foundational to a future STM regime, whether such a regime is developed bottom-up, or top-down. In this paper, we will examine the LTS guidelines through the lens of STM to determine how broad implementation of the guidelines could help to create conditions that are conducive for the further development of STM frameworks at national and international level.