



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

**Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee
proposals on space debris mitigation: comments received
from member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses
of Outer Space**

Note by the Secretariat*

Addendum

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* The present document was prepared on the basis of replies from member States received after 16 December 2003.



II. Replies received from member States*

United States of America

[Original: English]

1. The representative on the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America was a key proponent of the space debris mitigation guidelines that IADC developed and subsequently presented to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fortieth session, in 2003.
2. The United States Government endorses the IADC space debris mitigation guidelines and itself adopted similar guidelines in December 2000. Those guidelines have been implemented by each United States government agency according to its own set of policies and procedures. The United States Department of Defense and NASA, which are responsible for the majority of United States government satellites, have long adhered to the United States policy of minimizing the creation of orbital debris.
3. The United States Government invites other space-faring nations to join it by implementing the IADC space debris mitigation guidelines in their space operations, consistent with mission objectives and cost-effectiveness. The United States will encourage the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to endorse formally the IADC space debris mitigation guidelines and to continue its interaction with IADC to ensure that the Subcommittee is apprised of future developments in that area. The United States Government believes that widespread implementation of the space debris mitigation guidelines by Member States as expeditiously as possible will effectively reduce the risks created by orbital debris.

* The replies are reproduced in the form in which they were received.