



General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Note verbale dated 16 July 2019 from the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations (Vienna) has the honour to provide the Secretary-General with the following notification concerning the controlled re-entry into the atmosphere of the Tiangong-2 space laboratory of China.

In accordance with the plan, the Tiangong-2 space laboratory has completed all the expansion tests, and it is scheduled to leave orbit and undergo controlled re-entry into the atmosphere on 19 July (Beijing time). A small amount of debris is expected to fall into the safe area in the southern Pacific Ocean (160–90 degrees West longitude and 30–45 degrees South latitude).

Tiangong-2, which was developed on the basis of the Tiangong-1 backup target vehicle, comprises an experiment module and a resource module. The space laboratory has a total length of 10.4 metres, a maximum diameter of 3.35 metres and a take-off weight of 8.6 tons; its wingspan is about 18.4 metres when the solar panels are deployed. Its functions have been rendezvous and docking with the Shenzhou crewed spaceship and the Tianzhou cargo spaceship, in-orbit propellant refuelling and conducting a series of scientific and technological experiments.

Tiangong-2 was launched into orbit on 15 September 2016 with an intended two-year orbital lifespan. Thus far, the space laboratory has operated in orbit over 1,000 days. The platform and the payloads are functioning well and are in good condition. Preparations for the controlled re-entry into the atmosphere are proceeding smoothly and to plan. China will report information about the spacecraft in due course once it has re-entered the atmosphere.

