

Canadian Statement
Agenda Item 6 – Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixtieth session
Delivered by: Sarah Pacey-Parker, Canadian Space Agency

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty Sixth session, Vienna, 31 May – 9 June, 2023

Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Canada would like to express its ongoing gratitude to Acting Director Niklas Hedman of the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs for his ongoing leadership and support of the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Similarly, we wish to acknowledge the hard work of the Chair, Ambassador Facetti of Paraguay, and thank him for his leadership during another challenging hybrid session in February. In particular, we support the Chair's non-paper regarding the proposed contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goal Summit later this year.

We commend the Chair, Mr. Umamaheswaran, of the 'Long-term Sustainability 2.0' Working Group and appreciate his leadership in guiding our work over the last year. We look forward to continuing these discussions, in particular as the Working Group considers the content and format of the capacity-building workshop to take place in 2024 during the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Similarly, as we reach the mid-point in the Working Group's work plan in the next year, it is important to turn our attention to how to report on findings in a practical and balanced fashion that is guided by the already agreed upon Terms of Reference.

The LTS 2.0 Working Group contains representatives from a diverse array of nations. Recent sessions featured positive, constructive, and informative discussions on the rapid evolution of space activities. There is power in this diversity and we encourage all members to actively participate and share their views to advance these constructive discussions. It is through this type of dialogue that members can identify shared challenges and learn about possible solutions through sharing knowledge and experiences. We encourage member states to examine the Conference Room Paper on a practical and inclusive approach to identifying and studying challenges and considering possible new guidelines.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada appreciates that the important topic of Dark and Quiet Skies continues to be discussed by the STSC and welcomed Chile's proposal to extend the temporary agenda item during the last session of the subcommittee. We continue to support the establishment of an

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Expert Group that would include government regulators and policy experts, academics, astronomers and private satellite operators to study the issue of radio and optical interference with astronomy, with due consideration to the role of the ITU as pertains to spectrum issues. It is critical that the envisioned Expert Group ensures a fair and balanced voice between the astronomy community, government, and private satellite operators in order to reach recommendations that could be practically implemented. A Dark and Quiet sky is critical to astronomy and scientific discovery but it is equally important to Canada's Indigenous People for whom astronomy is important to their cultural and spiritual identity. It is important to balance these considerations with the provision of critical services to previously unserved and often remote communities.

Thank you for your kind attention.