

Germany, Item 6

UNCOPUOS
66th Session, Vienna, 31 May – 09 June 2023

Item 6: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-ninth session

Statement by Germany

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

we want to thank Ambassador Facetti of Paraguay for his two years of leadership as chair of the subcommittee, as well as thank the secretariat for the excellent organization of the session.

Germany welcomes the discussions at the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and was encouraged to see so many member states and observer organizations share information on their approach to the implementation of the 21 LTS guidelines as well as views on new challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. At this session, we will develop the agenda of the workshop to take place in 2024. Germany has suggested “raising awareness for implementing cyber safety and resiliency measures in space missions” as a topic for the workshop, and we look forward to hearing the suggestions from other members of the Working Group.

We further welcome that the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space was able to adopt its report and agree on a new five-year workplan. We once more want to thank the previous chair of the working group, Mr. Sam Harbison, for his many years of leadership, and we hope that a successor for that role can be agreed on at this session of the Committee in order for the working group to begin carrying out its new workplan. We continue to support the candidature of Mr. Leopold Summerer, who we believe would make an excellent chair.

Germany believes that the issue of “dark and quiet skies for science and society” is an important topic worthy of further consideration by the Subcommittee. We regret that so far, it was not possible to reach a decision on retaining the issue as an agenda item of the Subcommittee, and on establishing an expert group as suggested by the IAU, Chile, Spain, South Africa and other delegations. We were however encouraged by

the broad support that the proposal received, and hope that we can finalize the decision and move forward at this session of the Committee.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Finishing our work in the timeframe available has been an increasing challenge for this Subcommittee in particular over the past years. We therefore welcome the discussion of proposals made at this year's session to streamline the agenda of the Subcommittee by combining several items, and we are open to consider these proposals. We will make further remarks on this issue under agenda item 13 on future role and method of work of the Committee.

Finally, we want to highlight our continued support for the Bonn office of UN-SPIDER and its collaboration with the University of Bonn through the SPEAR project, which will be running until the summer of 2024. During this upcoming year, a number of activities is planned, including a major international conference at the UN-Campus in Bonn. We are currently looking towards renewing this partnership in order to continue Germany's support for the UN-SPIDER programme and for scientific activities in space-based disaster management.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your kind attention.