

Madam Chair,

We would like to express our full support to the initiative presented in CRP.20 by the Coordinator of the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and the Chair of the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG).

We understand the opportunity to enhance public knowledge and awareness on asteroids and near-Earth objects as a phenomenon representing both a great scientific value in understanding our universe and a major environmental issue with potential global disastrous consequences. While near-Earth objects are part of our collective history and culture, they are the subject of fascination, curiosity, fears and sometimes misconceptions.

Electing 2029 as international year of Asteroids Awareness and Planetary Defense should allow us to strengthen common awareness on the fragility of our planet and on the importance of space science and technology to protect it as much as we can.

I thank you.