



**STATEMENT BY THE SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY OBSERVATORY**

The 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the  
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

**AGENDA ITEM 3 General Exchange of Views**

**Read by: Tim Stevenson (SKAO Head of Assurance)**

**Date ... June 2021**

Check against delivery.

Chairperson,

Thank you for allowing me the floor.

On behalf of the Square Kilometre Array Observatory, I am pleased to address the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Chairperson,

The Square Kilometre Array Observatory is an international intergovernmental organization headquartered in the United Kingdom and created by the entry-into-force on the 15th of January 2021 of our multilateral constitutive Convention Establishing the Square Kilometre Array Observatory. The Observatory Convention has been ratified by the Commonwealth of Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Portugal, the Republic of South Africa, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Chairperson,

The Square Kilometre Array ('SKA') will be one of the largest scientific projects ever undertaken and is under development as a next generation astronomical research infrastructure for a global community, complementing a range of other major facilities either in operation or under development at the present time. The science goals of the SKA are many and varied, tackling fundamental cosmology and physics, the formation and evolution of stars and galaxies, and the prospects for life elsewhere in the Universe on for instance Earth-like planets. The Square Kilometre Array Observatory is the entity that is responsible for the development of the SKA telescope facilities, and our project has an interesting and unique membership and cooperating entity footprint in the world of astronomical infrastructure organisations, spanning 16 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australasia.

Chairperson,

The SKAO is firmly directed towards outer space science and excited about the deliberations taking place in UNCOPUOS and its Subcommittees, such as on the 2017 **United Nations/Italy Workshop on the Open Universe Initiative**, the statement regarding the **fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development**, and the seven thematic priorities of **UNISPACE+50**.

Chairperson,

Over the last years we have followed with interest the UNCOPUOS work touching on radioastronomy, and believe that as an Observer we would be able to meaningfully contribute to items such as the **Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**, and in particular its Guideline A.4 (Ensure the equitable, rational and efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum and the various orbital regions used by satellites) and Guideline C.4 (Raise awareness of space activities); plus your **Space2030 Agenda and Implementation Plan** and in particular Overarching Objective 3 para 3.5 (Increase knowledge of outer space, including through enhanced access to astronomical and space science data, for the benefit of humankind).

Chairperson, we thus recommend to you our request for observer status with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as reflected in document A/AC.105/C.2/2021/CRP.15.

Chairperson, I thank you.