

58TH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STSC)
SOUTH AFRICA
COMMENTS AGENDA ITEM 10
SPACE WEATHER.

Madam Chair

Since this is the first time South Africa is taking the floor, my delegation wishes to pledge our support to you as the new Chairperson of this session, and express our sincerest appreciation for the work carried out by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and its Director Ms Simonetta Di Pippo, and the Secretariat for the dedicated work in preparing and servicing this the 58th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under these difficult and challenging circumstances.

Madame Chair

South Africa is excited to announce its important milestone of establishing a project dedicated to space weather in the African continent through the African Regional Office of ICAO.

In this regard, South Africa would like to report that through our National Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) has been offered three-year funding support to establish the capabilities of a 24/7 operational space weather centre to provide services and information regarding the impact of space weather. For the proper execution of this project, there are seven distinct sub-projects which include: (1) building expansion for the new space weather centre, (2) implementation of the ISO 9001:2015 certification, (3) African instrumentation network, (4) space weather products and service development, (5) communications, business development and marketing, (6) skills, competence, and capability development, and (7) ICT architecture and systems development. To date, South Africa is within the second year of project implementation and is well on track to meet the target date of October 2022 for

full operations of the Space Weather Centre. The establishment of this project will assist in ensuring awareness across the continent

My delegation is pleased to further announce that a Research Chair in Space Weather has now been appointed. The Research Chair's appointment is another part of the ongoing upgrade of the Space Weather Centre. This research chair is a joint initiative SANSa has with the Department of Science and Innovation and the National Research Foundation, and is also the first research chair position in South Africa not linked to a tertiary institution.

Madam Chair,

South Africa values all national, regional, and global partnerships with our SANSa Space Science facility which have assisted us to develop a national capability within a reasonably short space of time. Our collaborators include but not limited to, South Africa's Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), the South African Weather Services (SAWS), the Portfolio of Evaluated Civil Aviation Space Weather User Services (PECASUS) Consortium, and the European Space Agency (ESA). Through these collaborations, South Africa is seen as a global player within the space weather community.

Madam Chair,

In closing, South Africa remains committed to the provision of space weather information services to our continent and together with our African partners we are confident that our collective contribution will assist global space weather challenges.

Thank you