

Netherlands Statement

Agenda Item 16 – Geostationary Orbit – 26 April.

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Madam Chair, thank you for giving me the floor. The Netherlands wishes to take this opportunity to speak under this agenda-item to underline the importance of this agenda item.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates.

This agenda item is about getting access to the GEO arc in particular for the developing world. We underscore the importance of getting access to the Geostationary Orbit and in particular for developing countries. This is an important agenda item on the COPUOS agenda and therefore has our high attention.

It is nowadays very difficult for newcomers to obtain proper ITU orbit and frequency rights to GEO orbital locations since the GEO orbit has become highly saturated. The Netherlands believes that access to the GEO arc is however not the only way to get access to space. Countries can also get access to space by trying to obtain international ITU orbit and frequency rights for instance for Medium and Low Earth Orbit or any other orbit than the GEO orbit.

The actual satellite orbit that is chosen depends on factors including its function, application and the area it is to serve. For example, the advantage of particular the LEO orbit is that the costs of developing satellites in LEO orbit is only a fraction of the costs of developing a GEO satellite. Therefore operating satellites in LEO orbit can be a better way to obtain access to space. However at the same time we also notice the increased interest in these LEO orbits, particularly by the mega constellations networks which are developed these days.

Madam chair, getting access to space is not limited to GEO. Therefore my delegation believes that regarding this agenda item, we should consider, at future meetings, to broaden the scope of this agenda item from GEO to GEO, LEO, MEO and other orbits.

I thank you for your attention.