

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Since my delegation takes the floor for the first time at this session, allow me to congratulate you, Madame Chair, on your election, we are confident that under your leadership the session will be another success. I'd also like to thank UNOOSA Director Ms. Simonetta di Pippo and her staff for the work they have done and their excellent preparations for this session under these difficult circumstances.

The Slovak Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and its Member States. Slovak delegation would like to add few remarks in its national capacity on Conference Room Paper Recommendations to Keep Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society (A/AC.105/C.1/2021/CRP.17) submitted by Chile, Ethiopia, Jordan, Slovakia, Spain and the International Astronomical Union.

In Slovakia we have long astronomical tradition with focus on ground-based optical observations. This type of observations is essential for Slovakia to acquire scientifically relevant data of space objects. We are aware of the advantages that new technologies such as large constellations can bring to society, but we also understand the challenges they can cause to the ground-based astronomy and what negative impact they can have on night sky. While within this sub-committee we are focusing on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities within Agenda Item 12, we should also focus on long-term suitability of our way of life on Earth and how the science is conducted from the ground.

Madame Chair,

Slovakia is co-sponsoring the Conference Room Paper Recommendations to Keep Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society which contains compiled mitigation measures of the effects caused by satellite constellations. We support the idea of introducing new specific Agenda Item in future STSC meetings which will allow the sub-committee further to investigate the impacts of new technologies on night sky quality and on the ground-based astronomy.

Thank you.