

Germany, Item 7

**UNCOPUOS**  
**65<sup>th</sup> Session, Vienna, 1 – 10 June 2022**

**Item 7: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-ninth session**

**Statement by Germany**

Honorable Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

We once again look back on a successful session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and we want to thank Ambassador Facetti of Paraguay as well as the Secretariat for the excellent organization of the session.

Germany highly welcomes that the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities was able to reach agreement on its terms of reference, methods of work and workplan, and that it can now begin its substantive discussions. The German Space Agency is currently preparing a report on our national progress in the implementation of the LTS guidelines, which we will share with the working group in preparation of its next meeting.

One of the challenges to space sustainability remains the continuing proliferation of space debris. We reiterate our call that efforts should be taken by all space faring nations to avoid the further increase of space debris and reduce the risks to operational spacecraft by implementing space debris mitigation guidelines and avoiding releasing or intentionally creating additional space debris. We thank the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, IADC, for its continued dissemination and communication of the newest state of space debris research.

We further welcome that the Subcommittee has decided to include the issue of “dark and quiet skies” into its agenda for this year and the next. The recommendations offered by several delegations and the International Astronomical Union in their conference room paper served as a very good foundation for discussions, and we were glad to see so many delegations recognize the relevance of the topic for the long-term

sustainability of space activities. We encourage further engagement on this issue at the next session of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Working Group on Space and Global Health and the Expert Group on Space Weather concluded their work plan this year and delivered their final reports to the Subcommittee. Both groups were excellent mechanisms to foster collaboration and exchange among scientific expert communities, and we thank their members for their hard work and for supporting our political discussions here with their valuable expertise. We are glad that the work on space and global health will be carried forward through the newly established space and global health network, and we hope that the international space weather community will find a mechanism to continue its work as well.

Germany continues its longstanding support of the Bonn office of UN-SPIDER and its collaboration with the University of Bonn through the SPEAR project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has developed alternative digital formats for technical support and capacity building with a high innovation potential for future cooperation. This has allowed for broader participation and enhanced the exchange of ideas within the global expert community. We would also like to highlight the recent Living Planet Symposium of the European Space Agency on Earth Observation which took place in Bonn, where UN-SPIDER conducted a networking session on “linking the space and the disaster management community” that discussed ways to use the solutions developed by the space community in disaster management and to identify challenges in developing countries that inhibit the use of such solutions. We look forward to upcoming events of UN-SPIDER and the University of Bonn, both virtual and in physical presence.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your kind attention.