

Statement Netherlands regarding agenda item 12 (Space and Climate Change)

Delivered by: Mr. J.G. Kroon, Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The Netherlands wishes to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of observing the atmosphere from space for the purpose of monitoring the climate system and understanding the complex changes in this system.

At present this monitoring is not restricted to only greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, but also includes the monitoring of short-lived gases and aerosols that play a role in both climate change and air quality. Only observations from space can provide insight in the complex chemistry of the atmosphere at a global scale and reveal patterns in the transport, sources and sinks of these gases. Current technology makes it possible to see emission sources of air pollution and greenhouse gases at a scale of individual cities.

The satellite images of air pollution and greenhouse gases from the Copernicus Sentinel5p/TROPOMI satellite before and during the COVID lock downs received widespread public attention and demonstrate that satellite observations are important to communicate the effects of economic activity on the atmosphere to the general public.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.