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AUSTRIA, ITEM 7

Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

65th COPUOS (1 – 10 June 2022)

Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER

Chair,
Excellencies – Colleagues,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Austria is very content with the progress made on the work programme of the Scientific and technical Subcommittee.

Long Term Sustainability:

Austria very much welcomes the establishment of a Working Group on the Long-term sustainability of outer space activities LTS 2.0. In our view, the discussions on multilateral level are extremely important in order to achieve practical guidance for current and emerging challenges in this context. We look forward to actively contributing to this new Working Group.

Space Weather:

We would like to thank the Chair and the Experts from the Expert Group on Space Weather for submitting their final report. We support the Report and look forward to the swift implementation of the recommendations towards strengthened global coordination for Space weather services.

Austrian experts have actively contributed to the Expert Group and the drafting of this Draft final report towards improved international coordination for space weather services and we are committed to continue our engagement in international space weather coordination.

- Regarding recommendation 1: Austria is part of the International Space Weather Action Teams (iSWAT) of the Committee on Space Research COSPAR and supports the coordination and the global effort of joint Space Weather research.
- Regarding recommendation 2: Austria is part of International Space Environment Service (ISES), a collaborative network of space weather service-providing organizations around the globe that aims at providing standardized data and exchange them via common platforms such as VSO (Virtual Solar Observatory). Austria is currently making efforts to improve coordination at national level.
- Regarding recommendation 4: Austria contributed also to Opgenoorth's latest study (Opgenoorth et al., 2019) providing a model for the coordination of Space Weather activities using the European context as an example.

Our modern society is increasingly dependent on satellite-based technology for communication, navigation, weather satellites and is therefore very vulnerable to space weather turbulence. Space Weather forecasts are extremely important to predict impacts on our infrastructure. Austria therefore looks forward to globally coordinated space weather services and encourages further worldwide scientific research on this matter, also regarding past events of solar storms.

Space Debris:

Nearly all COPUOS Members expressed concern on the growing amount of space debris, which endangers our investments in space. Austria as member state of the European Union and the European Space Agency is contributing to the setup of the EU surveillance and tracking support framework (EU SST), as well as in ESA's space safety programme. This European cooperation is very valuable and we think a good contribution to future international regimes on this topic.

Dark and Quiet Skies:

This topic needs awareness and subsequent action. We therefore look forward to the discussion on this new single item at the upcoming STSC session. An encouraging initiative is the collaboration between the satellite industry and astronomers on developing recommendations regarding satellite design, orbital attitudes and the provision of telemetry information. Lessons learnt from

these first actions might shape a vision for the long-term development of a DQS governance on that topic to prevent harm before it occurs.

Near earth objects:

We are pleased about the decision of UNOOSA to organise the Planetary Defence Conference in spring 2023. In 2021, the event took place as an on-line event. Austria supports the hosting of this conference in the framework of the Local Organizing Group. In this context, we would like to draw your attention on a technical presentation of our expert on the topic of "HERA Mission: Three-dimensional vision processing and visualization methods to analyse the DART impact on Dimorphos", which will take place on 6th June in the afternoon. Another presentation about Real-Time Earth Observation for Responsive Disaster Management and the results of the EU-Project EO-ALERT will also take place on 6 June in the afternoon.

Thank you!