

**Africa Group Statement on the Report on the Scientific and Technical
Subcommittee on its 60th session: Agenda 6**

**Delivered by His Excellency Ambassador
Mr Philbert Johnson: Permanent Representative of Ghana**

Check against Delivery

Thank you Chair,

The African Group expresses its appreciation to Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti for his excellent leadership of the 60th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) and wishes to also express its appreciation to the Secretariat for their diligent work.

Chair,

At the outset, the African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Group of 77 and China.

The African Group holds the firm conviction that space technology has practical benefits which can be leveraged to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 SDG Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063 through timely provision of capacity building and technical assistance. Accordingly, the Group expresses its appreciation for the capacity building activities carried out in 2022, which are critical in assisting African countries build and strengthen their space programmes to benefit from the spin-offs of space technology.

In this regard, the Group also welcomes the establishment of the Space and Global Health Platform in recognition of the critical role of space and technology for health and medical science, amongst others.

Chair,

The Group continues to note with concern the proliferation of space debris and the potential for unintended harm. The Group believes that the major contributors of space debris must fulfil their historic responsibility in its mitigation and removal. The Group thus encourages space actors to address challenges caused by mega-constellations in lower Earth Orbit through the implementation of the voluntary measures contained in the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer space Activities.

Further to this, the Group supports the inclusion of Dark and Quiet Skies on the agenda of the STSC in light of evolving challenges posed to the astronomical community, science and culture; and the need to establish an Expert Group to advance the committee's understanding of the scope of the issue.

I thank you.