

Germany, Item 13

**UNCOPUOS**  
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**Item 13: Use of space technology in the United Nations system**

**Statement by Germany**

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Three years ago, we brought to the attention of this Committee an upcoming issue at the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2023, WRC-23, namely the question whether frequency bands currently used by radar Earth observation satellites could be shared with international mobile telecommunications systems, such as terrestrial 5G networks. Introducing such additional systems into those frequency bands could potentially cause harmful interference for radar satellite systems, and we hoped that the space community represented at this Committee would take a closer look at the issue. It was due to various efforts, including a passionate intervention by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs at WRC-23, that the introduction of mobile telecommunications systems into that frequency band came with such strong constraints that the risks of harmful interference with radar satellite systems are minimized. This was a great success for the space community.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

At the next WRC in 2027, there will be again the question whether frequency bands currently used by space systems could be opened to and shared with terrestrial mobile telecommunication systems. However, while in 2023 the issue was comparatively narrow for the space community, affecting mainly synthetic aperture radar systems, the new agenda item at WRC-27 will have potentially broader implications, as the frequency bands in question are currently used by almost every Earth observation satellite for the downlink of its data to ground stations and by meteorological satellites to broadcast weather data to users worldwide. If there was harmful interference from the introduction of mobile telecommunication systems into that frequency band to the operations of Earth observation satellites, it could have significantly greater consequences for the space community and its ability to study the Earth from space.

We therefore again encourage Member States to look into this issue and to study the potential impact of the allocation of frequencies to mobile telecommunications systems in the 7.125 to 8.400 MHz range, as suggested in agenda item 1.7 of WRC-27, on their Earth observation systems in order to inform the discussions at the upcoming WRC. We hope that through such sharing and compatibility studies a decision at the next WRC can be taken on a data basis that is as broad as possible. We will describe this issue in more detail in a technical presentation during this session and are happy to discuss it further with interested delegations.

Thank you for your kind attention.