

Canada Statement
Agenda Item 7 – Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty-first session
Delivered by: Sarah Pacey-Parker, Canadian Space Agency

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-Seventh session, Vienna, 19 – 28 June, 2024

Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Canada would like to express its gratitude to Director Holla-Maini for her ongoing leadership and support to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Similarly, we wish to acknowledge the hard work of the Chair during the last session, Ms. Ulpia-Elena Botezatu of Romania and thank her for her leadership in steering a productive session that tackled many important issues.

Canada is pleased that consensus was reached after extensive negotiation on the scope, title and duration of a proposed agenda item on Dark and Quiet Skies as reflected in the report of the subcommittee, A/AC.105/1307. The compromise reached on the proposal from the subcommittee reflects the hard work of the co-sponsors of this proposal, and the importance of maintaining the *Vienna Spirit* in tackling important topics such as this one. We continue to support the establishment of this agenda item at the STSC, and we look forward to this committee's endorsement of the negotiated scope, duration and title, so that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee can begin discussing this topic in earnest, during its next session. A Dark and Quiet sky is critical to astronomy and scientific discovery, but it is equally important to Canada's Indigenous People for whom astronomy is important to their cultural and spiritual identity and will continue to be important to balance these considerations with the provision of critical services to previously unserved and often remote communities.

Canada also wishes to raise the ongoing work of the Long-term Sustainability Working Group, as reflected in Annex II of A/AC.105/1307. We commend the Chair, Mr. Umamaheswaran, of the Working Group for his leadership, and the tireless work of the Secretariat over the last year. In particular, we wish to thank the Chair for producing a non-consensus Chair's Report that summarizes the views expressed by member States over the course of the Working Group, to-date. We also wish to thank the Chair and Secretariat for convening an informal intercessional dialogue 16-17 May to discuss the approach to concretizing the discussion of challenges identified, in order that the Working

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Group can have a meaningful and structured basis with which to develop recommendations for the final report. It is our view that having a framework to categorize the challenges identified; whether that be through implementation, related to capacity-building, and possible new guidelines will provide the basis for substantive discussion during the 62nd STSC. In this regard, we see it as critical that in order to make progress on the agreed Work Plan between now and the conclusion of this work in 2026, that during the Working Group's meetings during this session of COPUOS that we engage in constructive, substantive discussions on the challenges themselves so that as a group we are well-positioned to discuss recommendations in 2025.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

We wish to acknowledge the ongoing work by the delegation of Romania, discussed in informals during the 61st STSC and reflected in Annex I, Report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/1307), concerning a potential consultative mechanism for lunar activities within the framework of the Committee and that a decision is due to be taken by this Committee during the present session. Canada has consistently maintained that with dozens of missions, including commercial, planned for the lunar surface in the next few years, primarily to the south pole, it is important that there is an open and transparent means at the multilateral level to ensure these activities are conducted safely and sustainably. Canada has been active in its support for a set of practical high-level principles for conducting deep space activities, including space resource activities, in a safe, sustainable and transparent manner. These principles are found in the Artemis Accords, which is now supported by 43 States signatories. We are supportive of efforts to improve coordination and sees a need for an international coordination mechanism. In this regard, an Action Team established by this committee would be a positive step.

Thank you for your kind attention.