

Germany, Item 7

UNCOPUOS
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Item 7: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty-first session

Statement by Germany

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

we want to congratulate Ms. Ulpia Botezatu of Romania for her election as chair of the subcommittee, and thank her as well as the secretariat for their excellent leadership and organization of the session in February.

Germany welcomes that we have finally been able to agree on a way forward on “dark and quiet skies” through the adoption of a five-year agenda item. We hope that under this agenda item, we can make meaningful progress towards mitigating the effects of large satellite constellations on astronomy. In this regard, we want to thank Chile, Spain and the IAU for their persistent efforts in getting this agenda item adopted. We also welcome the establishment of the Group of Friends for Dark and Quiet Skies as a multi-stakeholder discussion platform and hope that it can provide inputs to inform our discussions here.

In order to fulfil the tasks in its workplan, the Working Group on LTS has been developing a template to help it structure and categorize challenges along the three pillars of its work. Germany believes that this is a useful approach and looks forward to finalizing the template at this session so that we can move forward with substantive discussions in order to develop recommendations and work on a draft report.

Germany welcomes that the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space agreed on how to implement its five-year workplan. We stand ready to engage in the meetings on the margins of this session, to further elaborate the preliminary set of questions to collect information about future uses of NPS. We consider it important to continue discussions about the safe use of NPS to be able to benefit from the unique opportunities NPS offer in the exploration of outer space without endangering life on Earth and posing hazards in outer space.

In February, the Subcommittee was presented with a proposal by IAWN and SMPAG on an initiative for a United Nations-designated international year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence, and it referred that proposal to this Committee for further consideration. Germany believes that such an initiative is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness for a better understanding of asteroids, how they might affect life on Earth and what options we have available to protect ourselves from a catastrophic impact. We therefore support this proposal and hope that this Committee will agree to recommend to the General Assembly to declare 2029 the international year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence.

Chair,

For the first time since 2019, UN-SPIDER hosted a major international conference at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany. The conference focused on the role of space technologies in contributing to early warning systems across the globe, and it attracted a wide range of stakeholders from multiple continents. The conference was the last major activity under the first SPEAR project, a partnership between UN-SPIDER and the University of Bonn. Given the successful outcomes of this partnership, Germany has decided to renew the SPEAR project for another five years, starting this summer, thereby also continuing its support to the UN-SPIDER programme and its office in Bonn.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your kind attention.