



**STATEMENT BY THE SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY OBSERVATORY**

The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

**AGENDA ITEM 4: General exchange of views**

**Read by:** Federico di Vruno (SKAO Spectrum Manager)

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Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO), the inter-governmental organisation charged with building and operating two of the world's largest radio telescopes. We congratulate you, Mr Chair, on presiding over the sixty-eighth session of COPUOS, and we warmly thank Ms Holla-Maini and the entire UNOOSA team for their steadfast support to our work.

Astronomers view the Universe as humanity's laboratory for fundamental discovery. Our work depends on access to quiet portions of the electromagnetic spectrum, yet we recognise that the rapid expansion of space activities brings unprecedented challenges to our instruments. The SKAO strongly welcomes the Committee's decision to maintain a single agenda item on Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee until 2029, where constructive discussions already started this year. The SKAO is also pleased to be a co-sponsor of the Conference Room Paper on Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society submitted by Spain, Chile, and other delegations to this COPUOS session.

Chair,

At the STSC's sixty-second session the SKAO submitted document A/AC.105/C.1/2025/CRP.13, which described the impact of unintentional electromagnetic radiation—so-called spacecraft radio leakage—on highly sensitive radio telescopes. The issue sits at the intersection of space operations, frequency management and scientific research, and no international forum has yet produced guidance that covers all three aspects. We therefore encourage the Subcommittee, and subsequently this Committee, to consider developing voluntary guidelines or best-practice principles on Dark and Quiet Skies which consider spacecraft radio leakage, in consultation with ITU-R and other stakeholders.

Looking ahead, SKAO—together with UNOOSA—will convene the UN/SKAO Workshop on Dark and Quiet Skies here in Vienna from 9 to 12 December 2025. The

programme is organised around three themes: science & society, industry engagement, and policy & regulation. It will provide a unique platform for Member States, operators, scientists, and regulators to exchange the latest mitigation techniques and explore pathways toward long-term coexistence. We warmly invite all delegations to participate.

Chair, SKAO remains committed to working with COPUOS and its Subcommittees to ensure that exploration, utilisation, and discovery advance hand-in-hand for the benefit of all humankind.

Thank you.