

* Item 11. Near-Earth objects
Mr. Harel Ben-Ami

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The State of Israel attaches great importance to the international joint efforts to address planetary defense from potentially hazardous near-Earth objects. Israel joined the SMPAG & IAWN subcommittees in order to help the world's effort to save lives all over the globe and create International collaborations. It is 6 years now that we are studying the subject of PLANETARY DEFENSE and searching for the right niches, special capabilities and unique technologies in Israel that can assist the world's effort. About a year ago the Israel Space Agency chose and started financing the first team to support IAWN. The team that was elected is from the Weizmann Institute, and contains gifted astronomers and scientists.

On behalf of the State of Israel, I would like to present a short update on their work.

- A member of our team participates in IAWN international campaign to observe and monitor the near-Earth asteroid Apophis during its 2021 apparition. Also, he leads the spectroscopy working group within the campaign and more.
- Our team developed a novel algorithm to identify asteroids among faint streaks. While current approaches are sub optimal and lost some of the NEOs, our developed algorithm is more efficient than current approaches.
- Also, our team conducts an infrared spectroscopic and photometric survey of B-type asteroids.

In conclusion, Israel wishes to express its willingness to continue developing and promoting different means of addressing near-Earth objects.

Thank you