

**STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA**

**THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

**AGENDA ITEM 16: EXAMINATION OF THE PHYSICAL NATURE & TECHNICAL  
ATTRIBUTES GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT AND ITS UTILIZATION &  
APPLICATIONS INCLUDING IN THE FIELD OF SPACE COMMUNICATIONS AS  
WELL AS OTHER QUESTIONS RELATING IN SPACE  
COMMUNICATIONS, TAKING PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE NEEDS AND  
INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE  
ROLE OF THE ITU**

**19 – 31 APRIL 2021**

Madam Chair

My delegation always sees it necessary to intervene on this Agenda Item as this is one of the Cornerstones of the principles of our National Space Policy; which amongst others requires that we strive for our country to have access to space on our own and in partnership with other countries of the world. This principle is also common for many developing countries.

Madam Chair

In this regard, South Africa is working with the ITU Radio Communications Bureau in the implementation of the resolution R559 of World Radio Conference (WRC-19), which is to give priority in the newly opened Geostationary orbit (GSO) arcs to eligible administrations to replace their degraded assignments in Regions 1 and 3 Plan.

The degraded assignments refer to the Broadcasting Satellite Service (BSS) orbital slots that their equivalent downlink protection margin (EPM) is equal to or below -10dB.

We are pleased to report that our identified replacement assignment encourages us to work closely with esteemed members of this Sub-Committee of the UNCOPOUS, other space faring nations and more importantly to coordinate with affected and affecting administrations of the ITU for our mutual existence in space operations, which are free from harmful interference to satellite network systems.

**Thank you Madam Chair**

