



STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA

15 FEBRUARY 2022

**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE
FIFTY – NINTH SESSION [7-18 FEBRUARY 2022]**

AGENDA ITEM NO 17: GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT

Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates

The equitable access to the Geostationary Orbit (GSO) continues to remain a challenge. This challenge is getting worse and many developing countries with nascent space programs will soon find that launching a satellite to provide an ubiquitous footprint over their entire service and geographic area, is impeded by lack of access to the GSO arc or suitable orbital position and associated channel frequencies. It is for this reason, this agenda item should remain firmly on the radar of the STSC for technical ways and means to be found as well as views and ideas to be exchanged and the challenges resolved.

Chairperson,

Fifty-five(55) countries are given a special dispensation to identify new orbital positions in a newly opened GSO arc from 36 degrees West to 10 degree East [36°W to 10°E], in accordance with ITU's Resolution 559 (WRC-19), for the BSS plans. Thirty-one of these countries are from Africa. Of the 55 identified, 45 were taking the opportunity whilst 5 others are unfortunate to find themselves in a poor position. The opened GSO arc is out line of sight and/or below 5 degrees angle of elevation. When it comes to the FSS assignment Plans, the special dispensation does not exist yet and the fight to access to the GSO must go on. Even where the FSS national assignment plans are not degraded, they are of unsuitable characteristics to launch the High Throuput Satellite network systems of the future.

Chairperson,

The Republic of South Africa's space program enjoys access to space, and in particular have some missions launched in the Non GSO, however a constellation is needed at these orbits for the satellite missions to make impact. We remain determined to go the GSO route for our commercial communication satellite.

Chairperson,

South Africa is pleased to report on its conclusion of some frequency coordination agreements with several affected and affecting administrations for our new BSS (Broadcasting Satellite Services) orbital slot filing at 8.2 degrees West (8.2°W), as it is reported in the BR IFIC 2932(Radio-communication Bureau International Frequency Information Circular). This task would have normally taken until World Radio Communication (WRC) 2027 to complete notwithstanding other Radio Regulations admin tasks, we are set to request the WRC-23 to de-register our degraded old BSS Plan assignment of 4.8°E from the List of the ITU, half a year before the sitting of WRC23.

In concluding, **Chairperson**; the rational, efficient, economical and equitable use of the GSO arc is yet to be fully realized and South Africa lends its support for the continued engagements on this agenda item.

Thank you all for your attention,