

Agenda Item No. 17: Dark and Quiet Skies

Mr. Chairman

Artificial light pollution affects more than 80% of the world's population night sky and almost one-third of humanity is unable to see Milky Way due to light pollution. Similarly, terrestrial and satellite radio communication cause interference for the radio signals coming from celestial objects. Moreover, with expansion of an ambitious space industry, the recent launches of a mega constellation of satellites for provision of global internet services in remote locations may hamper astronomical observations in the night sky.

In this regard, International Astronomical Union (IAUJ and Spain organized workshops in October 2020 and 2021 initiated by UNCOPUOS and formulated a comprehensive mitigation plan and recommendations report for dark and quiet sky preservation for our future generations to come.

Mr. Chairman

On our part, SUPARCO is operating National Astronomical Observatory housing a 0.5 m optical telescope and plans to install large aperture optical and radio telescopes. Pakistan currently is blessed with many dark and radio quiet sites. For preservation of these sites, SUPARCO supports recommendations of International Astronomical Union and United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Thank you Mr. Chairman