



Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Item 17: *Dark and quiet skies*

[*Check against delivery*]

Señor Presidente,

As stakeholders and experts established in different forums, but in particular at the online workshop organized by UNOOSA in October 2020, and the April 2021 Conference on “Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society”, there is a need of institutional innovation for the protection of the dark and quiet skies of professional observatories. With space activities conducted by space agencies and commercial companies alike breaking new ground all the time, cutting edge astronomical discoveries can only continue on the basis of an unobscured and undisturbed access to the cosmic electromagnetic signals.

As the UN committee tasked to foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, COPUOS offers the best international forum for proposing a uniform approach to the matter. Therefore, Brazil supports the continued attention to preserving the skies dark and quiet, through a dedicated agenda item. We also welcome the Conference Room Paper 18, sponsored by a group of like-minded countries and international institutions, and hope that the envisaged working group is established in this session, for a three-year period. Once in place, the group will be well poised to propose recommendations that are both technically and economically feasible and do not affect the main purpose behind the mission of the objects that cause interference.

We also encourage countries in a position to do so to work at the national level, with both orbital operators and the astronomical community to reduce and, where possible, resolve the issues identified, while developing national mitigatory options for these issues going forward.

Thank you.