

**Agenda Item 17: General exchange of views on dark and quiet skies for science and society.**

**Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates,**

While we acknowledge the benefits of satellite constellations, we also acknowledge that the constellations of low earth orbit satellites are constraining astronomy observations in the visible range due to the reflection of light. The Ultra-Violet Imaging Telescope on-board ISRO's multi-wavelength astronomy observatory satellite AstroSat had to be reset due to bright object detection which was traced back to such satellites entering in the field of view of the telescope. The number of trails from these satellite constellations will make some parts of the sky completely out of reach for astronomy observations. The data collected from these parts are rendered unusable due to the bright satellite trails. Similarly, the radio interference from these satellites will also constrain radio studies of the cosmos.

In this regard, to help reducing the effects of satellite constellations on astronomy research, India supports the maintenance of the single Agenda item "General exchange of views on Dark and Quiet Skies" in the upcoming sessions of STSC, and creation of an Expert Group with the task of monitoring the impact of the satellite constellations on astronomy.

India will be keen to participate actively in the proposed expert group and contribute in the international efforts to reduce the impact of large constellations on astronomy.

**Thank you Chair and distinguished delegates.**