



Permanent Mission of Italy
International Organisations - Vienna

**60th SESSION OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE
(STSC)**

Item 17: Dark and quiet skies

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Italy welcomes the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the STSC: the interesting debate we had last year and in this session shows the merit for including the issue of dark and quiet skies in our deliberations, as a point of discussion of its own. And we are pleased to see that there is a very broad agreement in this regard.

Italy equally welcomes the Conference Room Paper on “Protection of dark and quiet skies for science and society” and wishes to thank Chile, Spain, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Dominican Republic, Peru, South Africa, the International Astronomical Union, the European Southern Observatory and the Square Kilometre Array Observatory for their efforts in bringing forward the discussion.

Italy reiterates its support for the two proposals submitted to the attention of the delegations in the revised version CRP, namely to maintain this single-issue agenda item for the next three sessions of the Subcommittee and to create an Expert Group.

Finally, Italy wishes to highlight the importance of including academia and the private sector representatives in such expert group, as the cooperation between astronomers and industry is key to finding viable mitigation measures and possible solutions.

Thank you Mister Chair.