



**INTERVENTION BY KENYA ON THE AGENDA ITEM 10.
“SPACE WEATHER” AGENDA DELIVERED TO THE SIXTIETH
SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE
(STSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER
SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 6TH TO 17TH
FEBRUARY 2023**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to share views on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman

Kenya appreciates the work of the Expert Group on Space Weather and supports its final report and the recommendations therein geared towards improved international coordination for space weather services. In particular, the need for information-sharing and cooperation among entities active in the space weather domain to advance space weather science, provide continuous and new space weather monitoring and alerts, and improve global preparedness in response to the threat arising from adverse space weather.

The Kenya Space Agency has been supporting a regional capacity building workshop programme on space weather science with a focus on ionospheric effects on GNSS technology since 2019. The programme was initially intended for the Eastern Africa sector, but has since 2021 evolved into a global training programme currently focused on the African continent and developing nations. The most recent of these workshops was the African Capacity Building Workshop on Space Weather effects on GNSS held from 3 to 14 October 2022 at Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy, which the Kenya Space Agency co-sponsored with the ICTP, UNOOSA, Boston College, Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV), Institute of Navigation (ION) and International Union of Radio Science (URSI). These workshops are intended to strengthen the African vision for enhancing research capacity in Space Weather Science and GNSS technology at regional level.

As a country, space weather science is still at infancy stage of development with very low human resource. The strides we are



making in space weather research and education remain significant in the region and overtime will realize a critical mass with sustained capacity building initiatives both for the industry and academia.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

Kenya will host the next Eastern Africa Capacity Building Workshop on Space Weather and Low-latitude Ionosphere in Malindi, from 3 to 12 October 2023 and is also keen to host the 2024 International Reference Ionosphere workshop supported under the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) capacity building workshop programme. These workshops will aim at emphasizing practical work to give participants more capability in detection and mitigation of adverse space weather scenarios.

In conclusion, to build resilience against space weather effects, the Kenya Space Agency is partnering with the Italian Space Agency, the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology of Italy (INGV) and Pwani University to design and develop a new ionospheric observatory dedicated to real time ionospheric specification over the Kenyan region. To achieve this, new models and algorithms will be developed for space weather monitoring in near real-time over the region. This infrastructure will supplement the already existing space monitoring facilities mainly made up of ionospheric scintillation receivers and magnetometers in the country. We welcome new mechanisms and forums for cooperating in space weather, and opportunities for States with emerging capabilities in space weather.

Thank you.