



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
60TH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF
THE
UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER
SPACE**

**AGENDA ITEM 10 : SPACE WEATHER
Delivered by Dr. Rendani Nndanganeni
(South African National Space Agency)**

Mr Chair

South Africa is excited to announce an important milestone of establishing a project dedicated to space weather on the African continent through the African Regional Office of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The South African National Space Agency (SANSA) established the capabilities of a 24/7 operational space weather centre to provide services and information on the impact of space weather.

For the proper execution of this project, there were seven distinct sub-projects which included: (1) building expansion for the new space weather centre (2) implementation of the ISO 9001:2015 certification, (3) African instrumentation network, (4) space weather products and services development, (5) communications, business development and marketing, (6) skills, competence, and capability development, and (7) ICT architecture and systems development. The fully operational 24/7 Space Weather Centre was launched on 3 November 2022. The establishment of this project will assist in ensuring awareness across the continent.

My delegation is pleased to further announce that four “Space Weather Forecasters” have been appointed and trained. An additional three new forecasters have also been appointed and are currently in training. South Africa is proud to announce that 7 out of the 8 forecasters are women, a demonstration of our commitment to empower women and build capability in space science. The appointment of forecasters is a critical part of this project to ensure successful operation of the 24/7 Space Weather Centre. They will be the first forecasters to operate a 24/7 centre in Africa.

We are also pleased to inform you of the successful ISO 9001:2015 certification that was achieved in February 2022. A Meteorological 3 project led by SANSA was established in January 2021 under the Infrastructure and Information Management

Sub-Group (IIMSG) to support African states with the implementation of Annex 3 provisions relating to space weather requirement.

Chair,

South Africa values all national, regional, and global partnerships with our SANSA Hermanus Site which have assisted us to develop national capability within a reasonably short space of time. Our collaborators include but are not limited to, South Africa's Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), the South African Weather Services (SAWS), the UK Met Office Space Weather Operations Centre, the Portfolio of Evaluated Civil Aviation Space Weather User Services (PECASUS) Consortium, and the European Space Agency (ESA). Through these collaborations, South Africa has emerged as a global player within the space weather community.

Chair,

South Africa also supports the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)-International Space Environment Service (ISES) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to continue their work on improving international cooperation across the Space weather domain. South Africa is comfortable with the initial planning and, what has been deemed, the "Coimbra Declaration" to determine which aspects each of the international entities will focus on. In addition, South Africa supports the transfer of acquired Member State survey data to form the basis of the Report, from Australia to WMO to improve international coordination of space weather activities.

In closing, South Africa remains committed to the provision of space weather information services to our continent and together with our African partners we are confident that our collective contribution will assist global space weather challenges.

Thank you.