



**STATEMENT BY THE SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY OBSERVATORY**

The 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

**AGENDA ITEM 12: Future role and method of work of the Committee.**

**Read by:** Federico di Vruno (SKAO Spectrum Manager)

**Date .... 2024**

Check against delivery.

Chair,

On behalf of the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (the SKAO), I am pleased to address the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC1) of UN COPUOS under this important Agenda Item.

Chair,

The 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space requested this session of the STSC to consider the scope, duration and title of an agenda item related to dark and quiet skies and large constellations under this item, with a view to recommending the item to the Committee, at its 67<sup>th</sup> session, for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee.

Chair,

All great technological breakthroughs advance humanity but also have the potential to impact other activities and our environment. We see how the deployment of large constellations of satellites in space brings many benefits in the form of connectivity and new space applications, but we also see how the reflection of sunlight, radiation of communication signals and lately the effects of unintended electromagnetic radiation (or commonly referred to as radio noise) from satellites can affect astronomy and the night sky. We believe that there is a possible way forward, where industry, academia and states can work together to ensure a sustainable use of space that can minimize the negative effects on astronomy and the night sky.

Chair,

We are supportive of the CRP presented by Chile, Spain and several other delegations and Observers, proposing to establish an agenda item on Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society. We believe this agenda item will provide delegations with the right forum to exchange their views and discuss potential ways forwards to ensure the protection of the Dark and Quiet Skies.

Chair,

We highlight the work of the International Telecommunication Union on the topic of the sustainable use of the radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite orbits. Through its ITU-R Resolution 74 titled “Activities related to the sustainable use of radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite-orbit resources used by space services” and the establishment of several agenda items for its World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 we see the ITU addressing its role in this critical issue. We believe that this Committee will greatly benefit from an agenda item on Dark and Quiet Skies, which will enhance information sharing and will complement the work undertaken by the ITU within its remit.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

The SKAO is an international intergovernmental organisation that humbly prides itself on being part of both the ITU and the COPUOS, recognising their mandates and scopes of work. The SKAO trusts on the subcommittee to find a consensus, and commits to provide our full assistance to the committee and its subcommittees, on the important topic of Dark and Quiet Skies.

Thank you for your kind attention.