



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**61st SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE**

AGENDA ITEM 9: SPACE WEATHER

TO BE DELIVERED BY MS ASANDA SANGONI

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam Chair,

South Africa plays a leading role in space weather through the African Regional Office of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The Space Weather Centre hosted by the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) is a significant milestone in our journey towards growing space capabilities on the African Continent. The 24/7 network has developed advanced space weather skills for the region and provides real-time space weather forecasts that are transmitted to South Africa and the rest of the continent to provide critical 24/7 space weather alerts for airlines, air traffic control agencies, telecommunications companies and satellite operators.

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to announce that the *“Space Weather Centre Coordination Group”* has concluded the integration of the regional space weather centre in the operational ICAO space weather information services. In this regard, South Africa is grateful for the continued support of our partners in the development of our national capabilities in Space Weather.

Madam Chair,

In November 2023, South Africa participated in the International Space Weather Coordination Forum at the WMO offices in Geneva. On conclusion of deliberations, a statement of intent was published by the WMO-ISES-COSPAR Coordination Team (WICCT) highlighting the importance of working together in future activities towards the goal of advancing international space weather capabilities. South Africa looks forward to close collaboration with its partners in the pursuit of this objective.

In closing, South Africa, in partnership with other African countries, notably Kenya and Nigeria, is immensely proud to be at the forefront of continental space weather information services and the contribution this makes to the optimal functioning of aeronautic communication and navigation systems.

I thank you.