

**Agenda 15. Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations:
addressing emerging issues and challenges.**

Madame Chair,

Indonesia welcomes this new Item Agenda 15 Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations: addressing emerging issues and challenges. This is a landmark moment that STSC discusses this issue as a special Item Agenda.

My delegations would like to extend our appreciation to the work of Group of Friends of the Dark and Quiet Sky for Science and Society in promoting this issue in STSC.

Indonesia believes that dark skies must be preserved and protected as one of the world's cultural and natural heritage. Further, Indonesia is of the view that the preserving and protecting night skies in certain places or areas can guarantee humans' rights, current and future generation, to observe stars and outer space in general. Moreover, the preservation of dark sky areas is useful to the dissemination of astronomy science as the basic content in education as well addressing emerging issues and challenges.

Indonesia hopes that this Item Agenda could identify and address some issues and challenges, and provide policy recommendation to preserve Dark and Quiet Skies. In this spirit, we welcome UNOOSA hold a special meetings on dark and quiet sky.

Indonesia is strengthening its national capacity to support emerging issues and challenges of dark and quiet skies by preparing a new observatory facility, namely National Observatory of Mount Timau, which is currently almost near its completion.

We thank the **Government of Japan** for its contribution in developing Timau Observatory, located in, Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara.

More information regarding Timau Observatory can be accessed in the website of the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN): www.brin.go.id.

Chair,

Located in a unique site, slightly south of the Equator, with a predominantly dry climate, equipped with cameras on optical and NIR windows. We hope this new facility could be ready to study the Milky Ways galaxy, with relatively low air mass, long time observation, open up broader opportunities for space studies. We hope that this new facility in Indonesia will supplement and be a complementary to the works of existing southern hemisphere observations.

My delegation heard at least a proposal stating that dark and quiet sky should be part of Long Term Sustainability. Allow us to second the proposal. We also took note some inputs expressed by other delegations before us, we would like to see all inputs in the spirit to advance our discussion on dark and quiet skies.

We views that there are many opportunities of international collaborations on dark and quite sky, not only on technical and science aspects of astronomy, observe near-Earth objects, study of dark matters in galaxies, but also on how to strike the balance between the need of science and development.

We look forward to developing cooperation with other member states, universities and stakeholders of dark and quite sky issues.

Thank you, Chair.