



62<sup>nd</sup> Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

SKAO – General Exchange of Views

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO), I wish to extend our deepest gratitude to you, Chair, and to the subcommittee for providing this important platform for collaboration and dialogue. The SKAO reaffirms its commitment to supporting the peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space in a balanced and sustainable manner and stands ready to offer its full cooperation.

The SKAO is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to advancing the field of radio astronomy. Our membership includes Australia, Canada, China, Germany, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. We anticipate that France and Sweden will complete their accession to the Observatory in the coming months. Together, we are constructing two of the world's most powerful radio telescopes in Australia and South Africa, which will operate for the next 50 years exploring our Universe from Earth. As a growing organisation, we encourage delegations interested in exploring collaborations to approach us during these days.

Chair,

The SKAO is proud to report significant progress in its work. Our telescope construction, valued at 1.3 billion euros, has seen critical advancements. In South Africa, the first four 15-meter dishes of the SKA-Mid array are being erected, while in Australia, the SKA-Low array has successfully deployed eight 256-antenna stations and produced its first "all sky image". These developments, supported by our large international collaboration, underscore the commitment of our Member States to scientific discovery and innovation.

In addition to our construction efforts, SKAO has strengthened its collaboration with its African partners. During the International Astronomical Union General Assembly in South Africa in 2024, the first held in the African continent, SKAO has signed memoranda of understanding with the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) and the African Astronomical Society (AfAS) focused on collaborating on human capital development programmes. We will work together under this memorandum, to provide opportunities for African students to study and train at leading universities in SKAO member countries, and provide opportunities to participate in skills development programmes.

Chair,

The SKAO has been actively engaging in significant international events related to space during the last year. We were honored to participate in the UN Space Conference in Bonn, contributing to discussions on astronomy and sustainable space development. We also engaged in vital conversations about space sustainability at the ITU's Space Sustainability Forum, advocating for responsible radio frequency and space use.

We are pleased to inform on the "2025 UN/SKAO workshop on Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society", an event co-organised by SKAO and UNOOSA, to be held in the SKAO Headquarters in Manchester UK, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025. This event will



focus on actionable mitigation measures to address the protection of Dark and Quiet Skies, including technical and regulatory approaches. The three day event will be followed by a capacity-building day, with hands-on training. We warmly invite all delegations to join us, and make this event a great success.

Chair,

The SKAO would like to draw the attention of the subcommittee to the CRP.22 on Dark and Quiet Skies of which we are a supporter, and to the CRP.13 which was submitted by SKAO for information on the topic of unintended electromagnetic radiation from satellites. We will deliver another statement under the agenda item 15 on Dark and Quiet Skies, and [have delivered] a technical presentation focused on the SKAO view's on possible cooperation between UN COPUOS and the ITU on the topic of dark and quiet skies.

In closing, the SKAO expresses its gratitude to COPUOS and its member states for their dedication to the peaceful exploration of outer space. We look forward to continued collaboration and reaffirm our commitment to supporting initiatives that safeguard the dark and quiet skies, ensuring they remain a source of inspiration for future generations.

Thank you, madame Chair.