

## United Kingdom, Item 8

### UK Statement on Space Weather at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Chair, Distinguished Delegates.

The United Kingdom continues to prioritise activities to mitigate the impacts of space weather. Severe space weather is identified in our National Risk Register and our response outlined in Severe Space Weather Preparedness Strategy. Achieving resilience requires international collaboration. The United Kingdom has built strong working relationships with our international partners, and we wish to enhance this further. Towards this, the United Kingdom invested a further €95m into the European Space Agency Vigil space weather mission at the November 2022 ministerial. We would like to express gratitude to those other nations supporting this mission and would encourage others to join in the global efforts to improve space weather forecasting capabilities. The contract for Vigil was signed in May last year and preparations for the mission are progressing well.

The UK Space Agency is working closely with our Met Office Space Weather Operations Centre (MOSWOC) to address the threat of Severe Space Weather. MOSWOC is one of just a handful of 24/7 space weather prediction centres around the world. Their information, forecasts and

warnings help build the resilience of UK infrastructure and industries in the face of space weather events.

At a national level, the Space Weather Instrumentation, Measurement, Modelling and Risk (SWIMMR) programme is enabling the UK space weather community to make valuable advances in terms of monitoring and modelling many different aspects of space weather, with a key focus of transitioning results into operational use in line with our Preparedness Strategy. All activities will have concluded by April 2025 with the expectation of transitioning results into operational use at the Met Office subject to an evaluation phase. Work continues to secure funding for follow-on work, to sustain and enhance the achievements of SWIMMR, seeking to establish an enduring and consistent process for operationalising research.

Chair, severe space weather is of global concern which effects every nation. The UK would therefore like to thank those Members supporting Vigil and other important missions and research activities.

Thank you, Chair.