

Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society Workshop - Programme overview version 11 December 2025

WEDSDAY 9 Dec.		WEDNESDAY 10 Dec.		THURSDAY 11 Dec.		FRIDAY 12 Dec.	
9:00	Registration and coffee/tea	9:30	Coffee/tea	9:30	Coffee/tea	Registration	
10:00	Welcome - Aarti Holla-Maini, UNOOSA Director - Philip Diamond, SKAO Director General	10:00	Keynote on satellite constellations Patricia Cooper, Constellation Advisory LLC, USA	10:00	Keynote on Outer Space Treaty high-level principles Tanja Masson-Zwaan, Deputy Director of the International Institute of Air and Space Law, Leiden University, the Netherlands	[Please see the scenario-based exercise agenda on SKAO Indico webpage]	
10:30	Status of the Dark and Quiet Skies initiative - Nathalie Ricard, UNOOSA - Federico di Vruno, SKAO	10:20	Session 3 - satellite constellation projects overview <i>Chair: Natalia Vicente, Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA)</i> - Zhang Bo on behalf of Xu Yanbin, China Satellite Network Group Co., Ltd (<i>online</i>) - Ilsa Mroz, Planet, USA - Thibaut Maury Micolier, Secure connectivity and space surveillance Unit, European Commission	10:20	Session 6 - regulatory initiatives started at national level: status and lessons learnt <i>Chair: Andrew Macpherson, SKAO</i> - Marieta Valdivia Lefort and Yana Yakushina, IAU CPS Policy Hub, National Analysis Group - Eduardo Unda-Sanzana, Universidad de Antofagasta, Director of the Astronomy Center (CITEVA), Chile - Marcelo Colazo, Argentina National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE) - Hafiz Umer Hameed Khan, Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) - Nompucuko Nontombana, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa	Scenario-based training: briefing and clarifications	
10:50	Keynote International Astronomical Union Willy Benz, President of the Union						
11:05	Keynote International Telecommunication Union Mario Maniewicz, Director of ITU Radiocommunication Bureau	11:05	Session 4 - role of academia and governmental organisations to foster mitigation actions <i>Chair: Jessica Dempsey, Director of the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON)</i> - Jan Siminski, European Space Agency - Astha, University of Surrey, UK - Funmilola Oluwafemi, National Space Research and Development Agency, Nigeria - Roohi Dalal, American Astronomical Society, USA	11:40	Panel 4 - achieving success at COPUOS: lessons learnt <i>Moderator: Aarti Holla Maini, UNOOSA</i> - Ulpia-Elena Botezatu, Romania, Chair, Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Co-Chair, Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation - Mila Francisco Ferrada, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy and Permanent Mission of Chile in Vienna - Marcos Granados Gómez, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN in Vienna - Veronique Glaude, International Telecommunication Union	Team work in individual rooms to prepare output	
11:20	Session 1 - impact assessment after 3 years of observations <i>Chair: Piero Benvenuti, Director of IAU Centre for Protection of Dark and Quiet Skies (CPS)</i> - Meredith Rawls, University of Washington/Vera C. Rubin Observatory, USA - Cui Chenzhou, National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences (<i>online</i>) - Gregory Hellbourg, California Institute of Technology, USA - Ammar Eissa Mohammed Abdulla, Sharjah Academy for Astronomy, Space Sciences and Technology, UAE	12:05	Pitch - looking to the future and learning from other sectors - Kristina Vukosavljević, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands - Stefan Wallner, Slovak Academy of Sciences - Megan Perks, University of Southampton, UK				
12:45	Pitch - impact assessment - Ericsson López Izurieta, Quito Astronomical Observatory, Ecuador - Biruk Abte, Space science and geospatial institute, Ethiopia - Narae Hwang, Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute						
	LUNCH BREAK 13:00-14:00		12:20 Group picture (VIC Rotunda) LUNCH BREAK 12:30-13:30		LUNCH BREAK 13:00-14:00	LUNCH BREAK 11:45-12:45	
14:00	Session 2 - status of astronomers mitigation actions <i>Chair: Beatrice Kioko, European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO)</i> - Constance Walker, IAU CPS and NSF NOIRLab, USA - Olivier Hainaut, ESO - Erick Meza Quispe, Peruvian Space Agency CONIDA - Nicolas Cerardi, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland - Federico Di Vruno, SKAO	13:30	Panel 2 - satellite industry mitigation: who tried what? <i>Moderator: Patricia Cooper, Constellation Advisory LLC, USA</i> - Enrique Allona Pérez, Eutelsat, France - Josef Koller, Amazon Kuiper, USA - Ray Sedwick, AST SpaceMobile, USA (<i>online</i>) - David Goldstein, SpaceX, USA (<i>online</i>)	14:00	Pitch - International Astronautical Congress 2026 - Nazmelis Zengin, Turkish Space Agency	Team work in individual rooms to finalise output	
15:15	Pitch - mitigation actions - Sarah Thiele, Princeton University, USA - Stanislav Karpikov, StealthTransit Laboratories, Germany - Nacera Bekhadda, Algerian Space Agency	15:00	Pitch - industry mitigation actions - Agnieszka Sybilska, Sybilla Technologies, Poland - Ryan Moodie, 3S Northumbria, UK - Andrew Lawrence, University of Edinburgh, UK	14:05	Session 7 - Proposals and schedule of preparation until STSC/COPUOS 2026 <i>Chair: Federico di Vruno, SKAO</i> - Rafael Moro Aguilar, Florida International University, USA/Spain - Tarcísio Bakaus, ANATEL National Telecommunications Agency of Brazil - Aaron Boley, University of British Columbia, Canada - Giuliana Rotola, International Astronomical Union CPS Policy Hub Co-Lead - Richard Green, University of Arizona / International Astronomical Union and Group of Friends of the Dark & Quiet Sky, USA	Discussion session: teams present their replies to the set of questions, followed by Q&A	
	BREAK 15:30-16:00		BREAK 15:15-15:45		BREAK 15:15-15:45	Summary of key insights	
16:00	Pitch - other activities impacted - Vachik Khachatryan, Space42, Armenia - Ruskin Hartley, DarkSky International, USA	15:45	Session 5 - Interactions astronomers, industry and regulators: lessons learnt <i>Chair: Mamatha Maheshwarappa, UK Space Agency</i> - Tebogo Mashile, Department of Science Technology and Innovation, South Africa - Siegfried Eggli, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Austria/USA - Joan Chepkemoi, Kenya Space Agency - Audrey Allison, Aerospace Corporation, USA	15:45	Panel 5 - looking forward to STSC-2026 <i>Moderator: Aarti Holla Maini, UNOOSA</i> Dialogue between speakers of previous sessions and interactive discussion with the audience	Closing reflections and remarks	
16:10	Panel 1 - keeping a balance to preserve social and cultural use of dark and quiet skies <i>Moderator: Jessica Heim, University of Southern Queensland and IAU CPS</i> - Shea Esterling, University of Canterbury, New Zealand - Joyful Mdhluli, IAU Office of Astronomy for Development, South Africa - Antonia Wibowo, National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia - Songphon Munkongsujarit, National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT)	16:45	Panel 3 - Interactions astronomers/industry: gaps identified and proposals <i>Moderator: Tim Stevenson, SKAO</i> - Sara Lucatello, European Astronomical Society - Samuel Nyangi Kihuha, Space in Africa, Kenya - Artem Mokhnatkin, Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation/Serbia - Jeff Shaddix, Slingshot Aerospace, USA	16:45	Closing remarks - Stuart Whitley, SKAO Director of Programmes, on behalf of SKAO Director General - Aarti Holla-Maini, UNOOSA Director		
17:40	Wrap-up and information for Day-2	17:55	Wrap-up and information for Day-3	17:00	END of Workshop		
18:00	ADJOURN	18:00 to 19:30	NETWORKING RECEPTION Vienna International Centre, Mozart Room				