

27 April 2021

English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Fifty-eighth session  
Vienna, 19–30 April 2021**

**Proposal for a single Issue/Item for discussion at the  
fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical  
Subcommittee in 2022 on: “General Exchange of Views  
regarding Satellite System Effects upon Terrestrial-Based  
Astronomy”**

**Submission by Canada, Japan and the United States of America**

1. At the current session of Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the issue of the impact of new satellite constellations has been a topic for discussion. This discussion included a presentation of the results of an online workshop organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and Spain, jointly with the International Astronomical Union (IAU) on the topic of “Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society”, which took place on 5–9 October, 2020. This workshop was convened pursuant to the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixtieth session that the Office for Outer Space Affairs and IAU would jointly organize a workshop/conference on the general topic of light pollution.<sup>1</sup> Based on the results of this work, Chile, Ethiopia, Jordan, Slovakia, Spain and IAU submitted a series of recommendations in A/AC.105/C.1/2021/CRP.17. Although the delegations of Canada, Japan and the United States cannot support all recommendations presented in that conference room paper at this time, the fulsome consideration of this topic is supported.

2. To build upon the work done to date, the sponsors of this paper suggest to provide another opportunity for delegations to exchange their views on both the issue of the effects of satellite systems upon terrestrially-based astronomy and the potential relevance of this issue for the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Canada, Japan and the United States therefore propose to inscribe a single-issue item on “General Exchange of Views regarding Satellite System Effects upon Terrestrial-Based Astronomy” at the fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2022.

3. The purpose of such a single-issue item would be to reflect on current and emerging issues relating to satellite system design and operations and their potential impacts on terrestrially-based astronomical observations. The agenda item would also

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<sup>1</sup> [A/72/20](#), paragraph 93.



provide an opportunity to review progress across the full range of relevant academic, scientific and civil society research and commercial innovations, including technical presentations by delegations and permanent observers. In this regard, the results of a conference on “Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society” planned for October 2021 can serve as an input to this exchange and focus discussions on opportunities for international cooperation.

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