



## **66th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**31 May – 9 June 2023**

### **Statement by Australia**

#### **Agenda Item 6: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixtieth session**

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates.

The 60th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) was a welcome opportunity to exchange views on issues related to scientific and technical aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Australia thanks the Subcommittee Chair, Dr Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay, and the Secretariat for their organisation of the 60th session.

Australia considers that the session was a successful and productive set of meetings. We take this opportunity to reflect on some of its key outcomes.

#### **Long-term sustainability of outer space activities**

Chair,

Australia is committed to implementing the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (the LTS Guidelines). The Working

Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, established under the STSC, is an important part of this work.

Australia is pleased to have contributed to the Working Group's constructive discussions during the 60th session of the Subcommittee on arrangements for the workshop to be held in 2024. We are pleased that this workshop will focus on raising awareness and building capacity in implementation of the LTS Guidelines, and note that its scheduling during the next session of the Subcommittee will support inclusive participation.

Australia also welcomes consensus on the development of an information repository containing submissions on experiences, practices, lessons learned and challenges in implementation of the LTS Guidelines to help build transparency, confidence and capacity.

Australia thanks the Working Group Chair, Dr Umamaheswaran of India, for his able leadership. We look forward to further engaging in these discussions, particularly as the Working Group advances its preparations for the workshop.

### **Space weather**

Chair,

Australia is an active participant in international space weather activities, and supports the ongoing consideration of space weather as an agenda item of the STSC.

We are pleased that information gathered by the former Expert Group on Space Weather will help to improve international coordination of space weather activities, as well as support the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

### **Dark and quiet skies for science and society**

Chair,

Australia appreciated the opportunity to share its views on the topic of dark and quiet skies at the 60th session of the Subcommittee.

Australia has both a growing civil space sector and strong research capabilities in astronomy.

Additionally, we acknowledge the close cultural connection held by Indigenous Australians – the world’s oldest astronomers – with the night sky.

We support multi-stakeholder discussions to develop practical solutions that seek to address unintended impacts of satellite constellations on astronomy.

Australia was pleased to join with other Member States in supporting the proposal contained in A/AC.105/C.1/2023/CRP.18/Rev.1 to maintain the single issue / agenda item ‘general exchange of views on dark and quiet skies’ for the next three sessions of the Subcommittee, and to create an Expert Group. We thank Chile, Spain, Slovakia, Bulgaria, the Dominican Republic, Peru, South Africa, the International Astronomical Union, the European Organization for Astronomical

Research in the Southern Hemisphere, and the Square Kilometre Array Observatory for their proposal and continued efforts to reach consensus.

Australia looks forward to further engaging with Member States and Permanent Observers on this proposal, and remains open to considering options for potential updates to items on the Subcommittee's agenda in this regard.

## **Conclusion**

Chair,

The 60th session of the STSC underscored the importance of the Subcommittee as a unique forum to discuss, and facilitate international cooperation on, emerging issues in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space.

Australia looks forward to further engaging with Member States to advance these matters ahead of, and during, the 61st session of the Subcommittee.

Thank you.