

## **Netherlands**

### **Agenda item 17: GEO.**

*"Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union."*

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Madame Chair, thank you for giving me the floor. The Netherlands wishes to take this opportunity to speak under this agenda-item to underline the importance of this agenda item. But firstly, I want to thank the representative of the ITU for her document and her explanation this morning which was very useful and informative, thank you!

Madam Chair, this is an important agenda item on the COPUOS agenda and has our high attention. We fully underscore the importance of getting access to the GEO Orbit and in particular for developing countries, although the report of ITU is about the GEO and other orbits, the Copuos agenda item 17 is about getting access to the GEO orbit only, in particular for the developing world.

It is nowadays very difficult for newcomers to obtain proper orbit and frequency rights for GEO locations since the GEO orbit has become highly saturated, as we could just see in the ITU information presented this morning.

The Netherlands believes that access to the GEO orbit is not the only way to get access to space. Access to space can also be obtained through international ITU orbit and frequency rights for Low Earth Orbit, or any other orbit.

One of the biggest advantages of particular the LEO orbit is that the costs of developing satellites in this orbit is only a fraction of the costs of developing a GEO satellite and therefore operating satellites in LEO orbit can be a better way to obtain access to space.

Madam chair, because getting access to space is not limited to GEO only, my delegation believes that regarding this agenda item, we should consider, at future meetings, to broaden the scope of this agenda item from GEO, to GEO and LEO and other orbits. We just ask this meeting to consider such a change regarding this agenda item.

I thank you for your attention.

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