

AUSTRALIA, Item 11

59th Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Agenda item 11 – Space weather

Many thanks for giving me the floor, Mr Chair.

I would like to thank Professor Ian Mann for his statement as Rapporteur of the Expert Group on Space Weather, and acknowledge with appreciation his leadership of this Group since its formation. I would also like to recognise the members of the Expert Group for their work on this important issue, including their development of the draft final report, A/AC.105/C.1/L.401, and recommendations therein.

Australia is pleased to have played an active role in the work of the Expert Group since its formation. This has included support for the development, distribution, and analysis of surveys to understand the status of space weather activities on a global scale. More recently, we supported the preparation of the draft final report currently before the Subcommittee for its consideration.

The survey results provided important insights into the current state and diverse range of space weather activities being undertaken within and between Member States, and within and between several international bodies involved in space weather. The survey results also highlighted the synergies that provide opportunities for enhanced collaboration and coordination towards improved preparedness for, and mitigation of, the global threat of space weather.

Mr Chair,

Australia is an active participant in space weather activities being undertaken within the World Meteorological Organisation, the Committee on Space Research, the International Space Environment Service, the International Space Weather Initiative, and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). As such, we recognise the benefits that improved coordination between such bodies can bring to mitigating the impacts of significant space weather events.

For example, Australia, along with Canada, France and Japan, operates a global space weather centre to deliver space weather advisories for aviation to meet ICAO requirements on a rostered basis along with our other international partners. As an active participant in this large-scale international collaboration, Australia has directly experienced the benefits that international cooperation and collaboration provide in advancing space weather services to mitigate the impacts for end-users. Lessons learned, best practices, and data exchange and product standards developed through these cooperative efforts may be leveraged to assist other nations to develop or enhance their own space weather capabilities.

Mr Chair, Australia supports the draft final report submitted by the Expert Group for potential adoption by this Subcommittee. Adoption of the draft final report would serve as another step towards implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, particularly Guidelines B.6 and B.7, which aim to address the global threat of space weather. We look forward to future progress updates resulting from this work.

Thank you, Mr Chair and distinguished delegates.