



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE
ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

AGENDA ITEM 11: SPACE WEATHER

7-18 February 2022

Madam Chair

South Africa is pleased to announce its important milestone of establishing a project dedicated to space weather on the African continent through the African Regional Office of ICAO.

In this regard, South Africa would like to report that the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) has been offered three-year funding support to establish the capabilities of a 24/7 operational space weather centre to provide services and information regarding the impact of space weather.

For the proper execution of this project, there are seven distinct sub-projects which include:

- (1) building expansion for the new space weather centre,
- (2) implementation of the ISO 9001:2015 certification,
- (3) African instrumentation network,
- (4) space weather products and service development,
- (5) communications, business development and marketing,
- (6) skills, competence, and capability development, and
- (7) ICT architecture and systems development.

To date, South Africa is in the final year of project implementation and is on track to meet the target date of October 2022 for full operations of the Space Weather Centre. The establishment of this project will provide more accurate space weather forecasts and environmental data, which will greatly enhance awareness of space weather across the continent

My delegation is pleased to further announce that 4 new “Space Weather Forecasters” have been appointed and are currently in training. The appointment of forecasters is a critical part of this project to ensure successful operation of the 24/7 Space Weather Centre. This will be the first forecasters in South Africa to operate a 24/7 Centre in Africa.

South Africa is also pleased to inform you of the successful ISO 9001:2015 Stage 1 Audit with the final Stage 2 Audit planned for end of February 2022. A Meteorological 3 project led by SANSA was established in January 2021 under the Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIMSG) to support the African states with the implementation of Annex 3 provisions relating to space weather requirement.

Madam Chair,

South Africa values all its partnerships, national, regional, and global, with our SANSA Space Science facility which have assisted us to develop a national capability within a reasonably short space of time. Our collaborators include but not limited to, South Africa's Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS), the South African Weather Services (SAWS), the UK Met Office Space Weather Operations Centre, the Portfolio of Evaluated Civil Aviation Space Weather User Services (PECASUS) Consortium, and the European Space Agency (ESA). Through these collaborations, South Africa is seen as a global player within the space weather community.

Madam Chair,

In closing, South Africa remains committed to the provision of space weather information services to our continent and together with our African partners we are confident that our collective contribution will assist in combatting global space weather challenges.

I Thank you