



**INTERVENTION BY KENYA ON THE AGENDA ITEM 12. NEAR EARTH OBJECTS DELIVERED TO THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 7<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

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Thank you **Chair**, for this opportunity to contribute to this agenda item.

**Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates,**

1. The Kenyan delegation appreciates the efforts being made by the Space Missions Planning Advisory Group and the International Asteroid Warning Network to share information with regard to discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially dangerous Near-Earth Objects. These efforts also highlight potential mitigation efforts by space missions that ensure all nations, in particular developing countries with limited capacity to predict and mitigate the impacts of near-Earth objects, are aware of potential threats.
2. The Kenya Space Agency appreciates the opportunity to be among the first beneficiaries of the joint ISON-scope programme alongside the Nigeria Centre for Basic Space Science of the National Space Research and Development Agency. This opportunity by UNOOSA and the Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, supports capacity-building and the promotion of space education and research in developing countries, through awarding small telescopes to research institutions and agencies, aimed at increasing national capabilities in astronomy and space data analysis.
3. In this regard **Mr. Chair**, Kenya seeks to develop capacity to participate in these global efforts through the Kenyan Space Observation and Research Telescope Project, led by the Kenya Space Agency. Our aim is to monitor space debris and near-Earth objects, as well as promote and support space science research and outreach programmes in Kenya.



**Mr. Chair,**

4. Kenyan universities currently run academic programmes in Astronomy, Astrophysics, Space Science and Applied Physics. We believe that leveraging on this capacity and investing in observatories through international cooperation, we can develop capabilities in the discovery, observation, early warning and mitigation of potentially dangerous near-Earth objects, as well as share information to create awareness of potential threats.
5. In this regard, Kenya continues to support existing tools and initiatives being undertaken by UNOOSA, in particular, the **“Access to Space for All”** initiative. As a beneficiary of several tracks of this initiative, we can attest to its impact in raising awareness of the role that space science and astronomy play in promoting sustainable development while contributing to creating indigenous capability and opportunities.
6. In conclusion, **Mr. Chair,** Kenya seeks partnerships to develop observatories and looks forward to participating in the International Scientific Optical Network and becoming part of the International Asteroid Warning Network.

**I thank you.**