

## **STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

### **59th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**

**Vienna, 7-18 February 2022**

Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time we take the floor, we would like to congratulate you for your election. You can count on our country's full support.

We would like to also thank UNOOSA Director, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo for her dedicated work and wish her success in her future endeavors.

We appreciate the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the excellent preparation of this session.

Mr. Chairman,

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees are unique intergovernmental platforms at the global level to discuss the challenges and achievements and enhance international cooperation, in particular with regard to scientific and space technology and long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and develop international norms and standards.

In this regard, we believe that international community should make further efforts and search all possible ways and means of taking advantage of this comprehensive structure in order to deliver our common objectives on space-related issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Guided by the word and spirit of the international treaties, our country has long been expanding its space activities and capabilities.

In this regard, Turkish Space Agency aims to strengthen the industry, improve scientific infrastructure and develop human resources in the field of space technology in the context of the National Space Program announced on 9 February 2021.

Mr. Chairman,

We attach importance to discuss dark and quiet skies in the COPUOS meetings and welcome the addition of this topic to the agenda of the session.

We appreciate the valuable efforts in preparation of the Working Paper issued regarding the protection of dark and quiet skies.

After several meetings, workshops, and symposia, it is clear that strong collaboration is needed in order to mitigate the effects of artificial light and satellite constellations in the field of optical, infrared and radio astronomy studies.

At this point, it is worth mentioning that astronomical community seeks a moderation and international regulation for extensive orbiting.

National legislation plays an important role for the regulation in this field, however, the COPUOS has an important position as a neutral and objective moderator for this topic.

Our country is among the countries that have concerns about this issue.

The Eastern Anatolia Observatory (DAG), one of the biggest scientific projects in the field of astronomy, a 4-meter diameter infrared telescope, is at the final stage of installation, and the feasibility studies on Turkish National Radio Astronomy Observatory (TURAG) is continuing.

When the existing observatories, infrastructure, new projects and our country's general vision in the field of space in the context of our National Space Program are considered altogether, the issue of dark and quiet skies is very important for our scientific and technical studies.

In this regard, we support the work regarding “Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society” under the aegis of the COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our support for the UNOOSA, COPUOS, and to you for a successful meeting.

Thank you.