

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Czech Republic, as one of the supporters of the inclusion of the single-item issue “Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society” in the current STSC agenda, would like to start its intervention by quoting the resolution of the Czech Astronomical Society, adopted at its Congress last September:

*„The Czech National Committee for Astronomy of the International Astronomical Union and the Czech Astronomical Society representing the community of professional and amateur astronomers of the Czech Republic draw attention to the fact that uncontrolled launches of satellite mega-constellations negatively affects the rights of users of the outer space. These include disruptions of astronomical observations and measurements, financial losses connected to on-going construction of new ground-based instruments, devaluation of cultural heritage, and the risk of creation huge amount of space debris that will change the outer space to rather dangerous territory. The Czech Astronomical Society therefore calls on COPUOS Committee to start act in finding globally acceptable and equitable solutions in amending the international norms and principles that would guarantee equal access to space exploitation and exploitation for all involved stakeholders and entities.”*

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Czech Republic fully respects the views and concerns expressed by the Czech Astronomical Society and, bearing in mind that space environment is not only an area for those who are performing space flight and operating the satellites, our delegation would like to remind that UN COPUOS is the unique international forum where all relevant space actor deserve to be heard and respected.

We are of the view that there is no doubt that ground-based and space-based astronomical research is an instrumental part of space activities and should be treated as such, including its protection.

In this regard, the Czech Republic would like to support the working paper of the International Astronomical Union on the protection of Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society and would like to invite all delegation to carefully study proposed recommendations of the IAU and respective set of voluntary best practices guidelines with a view to their possible future adoption.

To ensure continuity of our discussion, the Czech Republic would also welcome the temporarily inclusion of a new STSC Agenda Item on “Impact of Satellite Constellations on Astronomical Facilities” in the upcoming meetings of the subcommittee.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, I thank you for your kind attention.