UNCOPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

59th Session, Vienna/Online, 7-18 February 2022

Statement by Germany on

Agenda item 18: General exchange of views on dark and quiet skies for science and society

[*Stellungnahme abhängig von Annahme des TOPs durch den Unterausschuss unter TOP1 – „Annahme der Tagesordnung"*]

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Germany would like to thank the International Astronomical Union for raising to the attention of this Subcommittee the challenges to the protection of dark and quiet skies for science and society. We attach great importance to addressing issues of such global nature on a multilateral level, and believe that COPUOS is right forum to consider this issue. We therefore support the decision to include a general exchange of views on dark and quiet skies for science and society as a single-issue item for this session.

The recommendations offered by the IAU in its Conference Room Paper provide great opportunities for further discussion, especially regarding large satellite constellations. Germany welcomes that the astronomical community has engaged closely with the space industrial sector and satellite constellation operators, and that they have jointly developed approaches that help mitigate the effects of large satellite constellations on astronomical sciences. We would be open to discuss in more detail proposals for best practice guidelines for satellite constellations as they were outlined by the IAU. In such discussions, we would recommend that related aspects, such as mutual policy coherence with space debris mitigation aspects, would be

taken into due consideration. We also think that, while this Committee is the most appropriate body to discuss the topic of dark and quiet skies in general, it would also be worthwhile to identify which aspects of the topic should be considered to be addressed by the International Telecommunication Union.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

we are looking forward to this exchange of views and thank you for your kind attention.