



Permanent Mission of Italy
International Organisations - Vienna

59th SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC)

Item 18: Dark and quiet skies

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Italy welcomes the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the 59th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

At the outset, we concur with the importance of including astronomical research, from ground and space, as an instrumental part of space activities, and therefore fully within the mandate of COPUOS.

The expansion of artificial light at night and the growth of satellite constellations affects astronomical observations. However, viable mitigating measures can be found.

The “Conference on Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society”, organized by the United Nations, Spain and International Astronomical Union last October, with more than 700 attendees and 76 countries represented, clearly showed the need and interest for deepening the international debate on this issue.

Mr. Chair,

Italy welcomes the presentation of the working paper on “Protection of dark and quiet skies” and wishes to thank Chile, Slovakia, Spain, the International Astronomical Union, the European Southern Observatory and the Square Kilometre Array Observatory for their effort.

It is an excellent starting point to work on the identification of recommendations and best practices guidelines, to be developed jointly by astronomers and industry.

Therefore, we fully support the ongoing exchange of views on this topic and we would welcome further discussion within this Subcommittee.

Thank you Mister Chair.