

Statement of the Kingdom of Belgium
60th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC)
of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

6-17 February 2023



ITEM 10 – Space weather

Thank you Chair. Since this is the first time Belgium is taking the floor, allow me to express Belgium's solidarity with the people of Türkiye and Syria following the devastating earthquakes. Our thoughts are with the victims and their loved ones.

Allow me also to congratulate you and your team on the work you have been doing in preparation of this session.

Mr Chair,

International cooperation is an imperative for the efficient provision of Space Weather Services. This applies not only to the gathering and sharing of measurement data obtained by both ground based and space based sensors but also to assuring consistency between the services. Belgian contributions to Space Weather service development have always followed the path of international collaboration. This includes the participation in the International Space Environment Service (ISES) since the year 2000, the significant Belgian participation to the Space Situational Awareness and Space Safety programs of the European Space Agency (ESA), as well as more recently, the participation in the international PECASUS consortium which was designated by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) as one of the four global Space Weather service centres to civil aviation.

We welcome initiatives for further improvement of global coordination of Space Weather service provision and service development, and hence wish to express our support to the efforts of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) - the

International Space Environment Service (ISES) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in this regard.

Thank you for your attention.