

**Canadian Statement**  
**Agenda Item 17 – Dark and Quiet Skies**  
**Delivered by: Sarah Pacey-Parker, Canadian Space Agency**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Sixtieth session, Vienna, February 6-17, 2023

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Canada appreciates this important topic being on the agenda, for a second time, at this year's STSC. We recognize the growing low-earth observation utilization and the benefits associated providing connectivity to remote communities' across Canada and the world as well as new capabilities for Earth imaging and environmental science.

Canada supports the proposal to extend the temporary Agenda Item on Dark and Quiet Skies as well as the Establishment of an Expert Group. We believe that this Expert Group will be most effective if it includes all interested nations, and balanced representation of private satellite operators, as well as those from the scientific and academic community to evaluate the extent of the challenges and means to address them. We believe there should be balance between the provision of crucial services by large satellite constellations the advancement scientific discoveries in astronomy.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

We recognize that there are areas of this work that could overlap with the responsibilities of the International Telecommunications Union and we stress that the development of a workplan and Terms of Reference for an Expert Group should rest firmly within the remit of COPUOS. Furthermore, Canada considers that a short duration mandate for this expert group could potentially be insufficient as the scope of the proposed work is significant with a wide-range of actors that should be involved at the multilateral level. Canada wishes to note that the mandate of the proposed Expert Group should place emphasis on taking action to develop recommendations concerning proposed mitigation measures.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As we noted, we do support the establishment of an Expert Group on Dark and Quiet Skies, as well as extension of the Temporary Agenda Item, given that the Expert Group on Space Weather recently concluded its work. However, it is critical that the envisioned Expert Group ensures a fair and balanced voice between the astronomy community and private satellite operators in order to

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reach recommendations that could be practically implemented. We value the importance of astronomy in science and hope to have fruitful discussions on the Dark and Quiet Skies.

Thank you for your kind attention.