

## **UNCOPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

60<sup>th</sup> Session, Vienna/Online, 6-17 February 2023

Statement by Germany on

### **Agenda item 17: General exchange of views on dark and quiet skies for science and society**

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Germany would like to thank the International Astronomical Union, IAU, for their continued awareness-raising of this important topic. We have supported the establishment of this agenda item and have contributed to the general exchange of views last year. We have taken note of the new proposals by the delegations of Chile and Spain, and by the IAU, to extend the agenda item on dark and quiet skies for another year and to establish an expert group under this Subcommittee to monitor the impact of satellite constellations on astronomy and to analyse various mitigation measures that could lead to the potential development of recommendations and guidelines.

As we have stated last year, we consider dark and quiet skies to be an issue of global relevance and that this Committee is the right forum to address it. After several years of exchanges in the plenary, we believe that now is the right time to move forward and deepen the discussion. Germany therefore fully supports the proposals by Chile, Spain and the IAU to extend the agenda item and to establish an expert group.

The expert group could provide an excellent opportunity to include affected stakeholders from astronomy and satellite operators in our discussions. We would like to suggest that the expert group should also include representatives from related fields, such as space debris mitigation and

radiofrequency management, in order to ensure that any recommendations from the expert group are coherent with established guidelines and practices in those related fields. One idea could be to have official liaisons from the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and from the International Telecommunication Union to participate in and inform the expert group, in addition to potential nominations through national delegations.

We look forward to discuss these proposals, including the tentative terms of reference of the proposed expert group, with other delegations throughout this session of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your attention.