

Germany, Item 6**UNCOPUOS
64th Session, Vienna, 25 August – 3 September 2021****Item 6: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-eighth session****Statement by Germany**

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

this year's session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was the first session of COPUOS to take place under pandemic conditions in a hybrid format. We want to thank the Secretariat for the excellent organization of this session in such challenging circumstances. We also want to thank the Chair, Ms. Natália Archinard of Switzerland, for guiding us through this session. Resuming multilateral discussions on the most pressing issues facing the space community was of great importance to Germany.

And it proved to be a good decision, as the Subcommittee was able to finally agree on a chair of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. We congratulate Mr. Shri Umamaheswaran of India on his election and assure him of our full support in leading the Working Group over the next five years. Now, we have to agree on a strong and balanced workplan that considers the implementation of the 21 LTS guidelines, new challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and capacity-building among emerging space nations. In this regard, we believe that the proposal by Canada, France, the United States of America and other delegations serves as a good foundation to begin our work and we thank them for this contribution. We look forward to this discussion so that the Working Group can finally begin its work at the next session of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

The STSC proved once again that it is an indispensable forum for the exchange of views on scientific and technical aspects of outer space activities and for fostering international cooperation in this regard.

The Subcommittee highlighted the challenges and threats posed by the growing amount of space debris. The Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, IADC, which is currently chaired by Germany, has recently updated its space debris mitigation guidelines and its statement on large constellations of satellites in low Earth orbit. We welcome the IADC's continued dissemination and communication of the newest state of space debris research and suggest to take it into consideration in our work here at COPUOS.

The Expert Group on Space Weather discussed the results of a member states survey and presented a set of draft recommendations aimed at supporting the implementation of the LTS guidelines related to space weather and at improving international collaboration. With its mandate extended by one year, we look forward to the Expert Group's final set of recommendations and its final report at the next session of the Subcommittee.

We also want to thank the International Astronomical Union as well as several delegations for raising awareness of the challenges posed to astronomy by large satellite constellations. In this regard, we look forward to the Conference on dark and quiet skies for science and society later this year and to further discuss this important issue at the next session of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the value of strong health systems to modern societies. The Working Group on Space and Global Health discussed the benefits of space applications to global pandemic preparedness and presented a set of draft recommendations on current uses of space technology in support of global health. We welcome the recommendation to prepare a globally accessible platform for effective knowledge management and coordination on space and global health issues.

The space community is currently witnessing a renewed interest in the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In this regard, the Working Group on NPS serves as an important forum to inform and exchange internationally on the use of such technology. Germany believes that this forum must be maintained and we therefore support an ongoing mechanism for a structured exchange on NPS at the multilateral level.

Finally, Germany continues to support the UN-SPIDER programme, in particular its regional office in Bonn. We are glad that UN-SPIDER and the University of Bonn are advancing their efforts in disaster management through the SPEAR project and look forward to further engage with the project's numerous activities in the future.

Thank you for your kind attention.