



Panel discussion

# Preserving Dark and Quiet Skies - Responsible practices for science and development within the framework of APEP-Space

Co-organised by the Permanent Mission of Chile and the Permanent Mission of Spain

Vienna International Centre  
Room M3, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 5pm



SKAO



**The deployment of satellite constellations in low Earth orbit (LEO) provides valuable services and various benefits derived from activities in outer space, including facilitating connectivity to communities worldwide. However, their large quantity, brightness reflected by the sun, and radiofrequency emissions can have a detrimental impact on astronomical observations, as well as on the pristine appearance of the night sky.**

The rapid evolution and the launch of new constellations make it important to address the challenges that the increasing number of objects in the LEO shell poses for the progress of science, particularly for the development of terrestrial astronomy. Responsible and sustainable mission planning and operation of satellites in low orbit is of utmost urgency for efforts to achieve the preservation of dark and quiet skies, benefiting both the scientific community and society by facilitating high-quality astronomical observations and preserving an invaluable natural and cultural resource.

There is growing interest and support for this topic from a considerable number of countries within COPUOS from the perspective of responsible use and exploration of outer space. This panel discussion will raise awareness of the challenges of and potential solutions to preserving dark and quiet skies for astronomical observations and other endeavors, especially as these challenges relate to the deployment of satellites in LEO. It aims to generate valuable insights to promote the conservation of dark and quiet skies and the harmonization of satellite deployment in LEO.

## **Audience**

Government representatives, international organizations, the space industry, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders interested in maintaining dark skies and astronomy are invited.

## **Programme**

UNOOSA Director, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini will be keynote speaker.

Panel discussion moderated by the European Space Policy Institute.

Q&A with the audience, followed by a reception and exhibits.

This event is conducted within the framework of the responsible behavior action line of APEP-Space.



*Flyer produced by the IAU CPS on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Dark and Quiet Sky for Science and Society.*

Image credits: Joshua Rozells