

## **TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STARLIGHT DECLARATION**

### **Looking to the future**

**We, the participants in the international conference on “Preserving the Skies” meeting in La Palma, Canary Isles, Spain, on 20th April 2017 adopt the following resolutions and calls:**

**We recognize the full validity of the Starlight Declaration, adopted in the Isle of La Palma in 2007 and we encourage the whole population, local communities, and governments to adopt its principles and guidelines for action.**

**We are mindful of the need to protect and recover the starry sky as a universal cultural landscape for humanity.**

**We ask the astronomers and the scientific institutes on which observatories depend to make a firm effort to bring the inhabitants of the localities where they are situated to identify with them, to be proud of their achievements and to gain cultural and economic benefits, taking positive advantage of the Starlight initiative.**

**Faced with the increasing pollution of the skies over professional astronomical observatories, we urge the governments concerned to pass effective regulations to protect these areas of special scientific, cultural and social interest. Preserving their astronomical quality is essential for the use of their advanced instrumentation, as an essential complement to astronomy from space, and for the future of Science, thanks to international cooperation.**

**We urge the cultural and environmental authorities, and those responsible for protected areas, which make up 15% of the land surface of the planet, to take the urgent measures necessary to guarantee the conditions of natural night-time light, so as to assure the integrity of ecosystems, habitats, and the lives of the different species, and which also contribute to ensuring the security of public areas.**

**Recognizing the use of artificial light to be a right, a need, and a responsibility which concerns everyone, and contributes to sustainable development, to safety and to welfare we encourage**

**the people, the local authorities and industry to choose lighting solutions which are intelligent and sustainable, and we give a warning about the dangers to health and the environment of some LED light sources which have an excess of emission in the blue range of the spectrum. We therefore send out a call to health service authorities and professionals to be on the alert about the negative effects of light pollution and artificial lighting which has a high content of ultraviolet radiation.**

**We urge governments and relevant international agencies to include light pollution in their catalogues of contaminating agents, and also to include provisions for its prevention. We also ask UNESCO and associated research institutions to include an effort to do this in the framework of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations.**

**The right to use and enjoy clear skies is an aid to sustainable development especially in isolated and less favoured regions. For this reason we invite communities and local entrepreneurs to take advantage of the sky as a resource for developing cultural, educational and touristic programmes which use the study and the observation of the stars.**

**We encourage those involved in any activity related to the preservation of the skies to bring it into line with the Objectives of Sustainable Development (OSD) of the United Nations, above all with the development and welfare of communities, the protection of biodiversity on land and in the oceans, the sustainable use of energy and programmes to counteract climate change.**

## **MANDATE**

**To raise the resolutions adopted at the conference to the Presidency of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), to the General Direction of UNESCO, to the Secretary General of the WTO (World Tourism Organization), to COPUOS (Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space), to the Executive Director of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to the Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation**

**of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), to the Starlight Foundation, requesting their support and maximum diffusion among the main entities acting to preserve the night sky, as a guideline for new actions in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.**

**We recognize and thank the work of the UNESCO office in Mexico for producing a multilateral cooperative effort to investigate and protect the sky, incorporating academia, companies and public policy in the area of public international law, in order to bring this to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and to the Global Compact association.**

**The participants in the Conference express their sincere gratitude to the Island of La Palma and its Cabildo for their hospitality and warm welcomed**

**Santa Cruz de La Palma, 21st April 2017.**