

Indonesia, Item 5

Mr. Chair,

Indonesia underscores that the exploration and use of outer space and other celestial bodies shall be for peaceful purposes only and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development. Therefore, all space assets for exclusive peaceful purposes must be guaranteed to be free from all forms of threats, from space or terrestrial systems. In this regard, international cooperation in space activities is crucial and major space capabilities has the responsibility to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space.

International cooperation is key factor to use and explore the outer space solely for the peaceful purposes and the benefit of all humankind, also contribute to the long-term sustainability, safety, and stability of outer space. That should facilitate transfer technology, sharing information, exchange experts and materials or equipment, considering in particular needs of developing countries.

Indonesia stresses the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and placement of any weapons in outer space. In this regard, effective monitoring, verification and transparency and confidence-building measures must be continuously pursued, with a view to negotiating a legally-binding instrument for multilateral verification. Indonesia follows the developments on consultations on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in New York, which considered inter alia that threats in outer space do exist in various nature and intensities.

Indonesia takes into account these existing threats and the radical increase of activities in outer space over the last decades, and further stresses that voluntary transparency and confidence-building measures could not substitute for a legally-binding instrument. Indonesia notes that existing disarmament and arms control agreements can contain elements of such measures that could form the basis for transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities.

Indonesia stresses and supports the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and placement of any weapons in outer space. Major space capabilities have the responsibility to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space.

Indonesia's view that implementation by countries of all the outer space related instrument including Guidelines Space Debris Mitigation, Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures

(TCBMs) in Outer Space Activities, one way and mean to ensure the peaceful uses of outer space, as norm of behavior in maintaining peaceful purposes of outer space.

Indonesia has implemented the space debris mitigation and the LTS guidelines particularly in development of own satellite and national policy. Indonesia also has contributed on national space legislation initiative (NSLI) dialogue together with member countries of Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), that stresses practices of TCBMs.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to recall that the Committee has the authority to promote international cooperation in space from scientific, technical and legal aspects, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 1472 (XIV) A of 12 December 1959. In our view, the Committee is a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly with a political character, and thus should address international space cooperation beyond just the technical perspective, and keep up with current issues objectively.

Furthermore, the General Assembly, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 74/82, requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session. Committee should also continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end. This demonstrated not only the great importance that the world community attaches to this issue but also the practical significance in discussing it.

In these regards, as part of the United Nations system, COPUOS should engage in interaction with all entities of that system in order to achieve the Committee's fundamental objective of maintaining peace and security in outer space.

Indonesia believes that COPUOS issues relate closely and therefore should be conducted in parallel with the considerations of the prevention of arms race in outer space by the First and Fourth Committee, also the Conference on Disarmament. These forums have the mandates and responsibilities on strengthening the international basis for outer space to be used solely for peaceful purposes. This, among others, would also pave the way for further developments in international space law.

Finally, Indonesia recommends that this agenda continue to be discussed in the next COPUOS in 2022.

I thank you.