

**Statement of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee  
Thematic Debate - Cluster 3: Outer Space**

**Check Against Delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt aligns itself with the statements of the Arab Group, the African Group, and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Outer-space is a shared heritage owned equally by all the peoples of the world, and a common asset for humanity. In today's world, almost all aspects of human activities on earth are either directly or indirectly dependent on outer space technologies. Taking into consideration the extreme volatility of the outer space environment, it must not be allowed to turn into a scene for military conflicts that could have catastrophic implications.

Without prejudice to the possible value of TCBMs as interim measure in the short term, there is a clear need for a legally binding instrument that would complement the existing international legal framework by preventing an arms race in outer space and filling the existing legal gaps in this area.

Such a legally binding instrument should have a comprehensive scope that primarily includes the following prohibitions:

- 1) the placement of any weapons, defensive or offensive, in outer space,
- 2) the threat or use of force against satellites or any outer- space assets,
- 3) Intentional harmful interference that interrupts the normal functioning of outer-space assets, and
- 4) The development, testing, and stockpiling of weapons that are specifically designed for the sole purpose of attacking outer space assets or being deployed or used as a weapon in outer space.

We believe that each of these prohibitions (contained in such a legally binding instrument) can be subject to specific verification measures, using a diversified set of tools that could be supplemented by transparency measures, as well as a mechanism for consultations and dispute-settlement.

We also believe that such an instrument can be designed to avoid any infringement on the full utilization of the peaceful uses of outer-space or dual-use technologies by all States for purposes other than weaponization. The required definitions can be easily determined in a manner that would avoid such infringement. Progress can be achieved through a gradual approach, including through the development of binding rules of States behavior in outer-space.

In this context, Egypt once again recalls the substantive progress made during the discussions of the Governmental Group of Experts established pursuant to UNGA Resolution 72/250 which witnessed a

remarkable level of depth in the discussions concerning all controversial legal and technical aspects.

Egypt noted with appreciation the establishment of the OEWG on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours pursuant to resolution A/76/231, which should be a further step towards maintaining a safe and secure outer space, that could also pave the way to developing legally-binding rules in this domain.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt and Sri Lanka have once more jointly-tabled this year the traditional draft resolution entitled “Prevention of an Arms Race in the Outer Space”, in this vein we welcome the consensual adoption of this resolution during the 76<sup>th</sup> GA session, and we wish to maintain the consensual spirit in this regard, and we look forward to the support and co-sponsorship of all Member States to this important draft resolution, which attempts to bridge the gaps and create common grounds for further progress on PAROS.

Finally, Egypt reiterates its readiness to support any credible effort that complements the existing initiatives and aims at elaborating rules that would pave the way to conclude legally-binding instruments on PAROS in all its aspects.

Thank you.