

**Statement by
the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement**

**Thematic Debate: “Outer space (disarmament aspects)”
First Committee 77th Session United Nations General Assembly**

New York, October 2022

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. NAM recognizes the common interest of all humankind and the inalienable, legitimate sovereign rights of all States in the exploration and use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes. NAM reconfirms its stand to oppose and reject any acts denying or violating this common interest and emphasizes that prevention of an arms race in outer space, including a ban to deploy or use weapons therein, would avert a grave danger for international peace and security. NAM expresses its serious concern regarding the threats to international peace and security by the possible weaponization of outer space or turning outer space into a domain for warfare and armed conflicts.
3. NAM emphasizes the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space. NAM also calls for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.
4. NAM reemphasizes the urgent need for the commencement of substantive negotiations in the CD on a legally binding and multilaterally verifiable instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS) in all its aspects.
5. NAM rejects the declaration by the United States in 2018 that “Space is a warfighting domain” or “the next battle field” and accordingly reemphasizes the urgent need for the commencement of substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), inter alia, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including through the establishment of an ad hoc committee under this agenda item as early as possible, taking note of a draft treaty on the “Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects” (PPWT), presented jointly by Russia and China in the CD on 12 February 2008 and updated in 2014. Taking note of the substantive progress made through the discussions of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) established pursuant to GA resolution 72/250, as reflected in the draft final report of this GGE, and expressing strong disappointment that consensus on the draft final report of the GGE was blocked by its member from the US, NAM notes that it could have represented a good basis for further negotiations towards adopting an international legally-binding instrument.

6. NAM continues to be concerned over the negative implications of development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense systems and threat of weaponization of outer space that have, inter alia, contributed to further erosion of an international climate conducive to strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the ABM Treaty brought new challenges to international peace and stability and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. NAM remains seriously concerned at the negative security consequences of deployment of strategic missile defense systems, which could trigger an arms race(s) and lead to further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.
7. NAM welcomed General Assembly resolutions 76/22 on “Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space” and 73/31 on “No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space”, both of which reaffirm the importance and urgency of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space and the willingness of all States to contribute to reaching this common goal, as well as resolution 73/72 on “Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities”, which reaffirms that “preventing an arms race in outer space is in the interest of maintaining international peace and security”.
8. NAM underscores that while voluntary TCBMs may partially contribute to reducing mistrust and enhancing the safety of outer space operations in the short-term. They cannot represent a substitute for the early conclusion of a legally-binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including the prohibition of the placement of any weapons in outer space, as well as the threat or use of force against outer space objects. In this regard, NAM takes note of the discussions on the preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of TCBM in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space during the 2022 Session of the UN Disarmament Commission. NAM further urges all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.
9. NAM continues to reaffirm the need for a universal, comprehensive, and non-discriminatory multilateral approach toward the issue of missiles in all its aspects, negotiated multilaterally within the UN. Any initiatives on this subject should take into account security concerns of all states and their inherent right to peaceful uses of space technologies.

Thank you.