



**Permanent Mission
of Ukraine**
to the UN

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine under cluster 3 “Outer space” of the
UNGA First Committee**
(26 October 2022, New York)

Mr. Chair,

For eight months Ukraine has been fighting against the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

The Kremlin's goal is very clear - to deprive Ukraine of its sovereignty, to exterminate Ukrainian national identity, to destroy and dissolve it. To achieve its goals, Russia uses various military arsenal including space rocket technologies.

Since the beginning of the war, Russian armed forces have fired more than 3,000 missiles of various types, including ballistic missiles, at peaceful cities, towns and villages in Ukraine.

At the same time, Russian strikes are increasingly indiscriminate in terms of target. As a result, thousands of civilians have been killed, including women and children. This horrific statistic continues to increase on a daily basis.

Against this backdrop, in recent years, the Russian Federation has been strengthening the military component of its space activities. Its space scientific program evolved from a predominantly peaceful to an aggressive one.

Most of the Russian satellite constellations consists of military spacecrafts. Moscow is creating a new missile defence system with an anti-satellite component.

We are convinced that the actions of the Russian Federation contradict the international values in the field of peaceful space exploration. The peaceful use of outer space has always been aimed at saving people's lives and health.

Regretfully, the leadership of the Russian Federation has chosen another way. The strategy and actions of the Russian Federation pose an existential threat to international global peace and security, bring unprecedented and long-term challenges to global stability and therefore require immediate response.

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine played a significant role in the space industry of the former USSR. But after gaining its sovereignty, Ukraine discontinued all military space programs and has since been firmly committed to the principles of the peaceful use of outer space.

Our delegation fully supports further development of norms, rules and principles with the view to prevent an arms race in outer space, as well as to exclude the possibility of using space technologies for destructive purposes.

We positively note that an increasing number of States undertake commitment not to conduct destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing. Our delegation considers that as an important step towards elaboration of a future legally-binding instrument.

We consider these weapons dangerous and destructive to the future of mankind. At the first stage such activities will contribute to the increase in the amount of space debris and further become a trigger for the start of a conflict in space.

In this regard, we supported and co-sponsored the draft resolution on Destructive Direct-Ascent Anti-Satellite Missile Testing tabled by the United States, which is aimed at preventing the threat to the long-term sustainability of the outer space environment emanating from ASAT.

To conclude, Mr. Chair, the ease with which the Russian Federation violated the principles of global international security having formed after the Second World War necessitates not only the establishment of norms of behaviour in space, but also the creation of an international enforcement mechanism for their implementation.

Taking this opportunity, Ukraine calls on the international space community to condemn the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and, as well as to stop the implementation of joint projects with all Russian space-related companies and organizations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair