



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - New York

## **First Committee of the 75<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly**

### **Cluster 3: Outer Space**

Today, space-based applications offer unique resources to all of us, also in the domains of economic growth and innovation. The Internet is very much dependent on space. Satellite systems are essential for monitoring land, maritime, and air security, as well as in facing critical issues such as natural disaster management and climate change. In this sense, the space domain enables a number of services, which have become essential for the well-functioning of our economies and for our security.

The sharply increasing number of objects in space, together with our growing reliance on space resources, infrastructures, and activities, are among the major reasons why a comprehensive and effective international regulatory environment should be elaborated and put in place. States must commit themselves to enhancing the wellbeing of humankind by working together for the long-term sustainability, safety, and security of the space environment.

Working on disarmament and security, we have the great responsibility for assuring the proper framework to technological developments in the outer space. In this perspective, we are firmly committed both at the national and at the international level, because we believe that a comprehensive and effective international regulatory environment should be elaborated and put in place. In 2019, a National security strategy for space has been approved under the auspices of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, as a part of our National Strategy for Space. Italy remains fully committed to preventing an arms race in outer space and to preventing outer space from becoming an area of conflict as essential conditions to strengthen strategic stability.

Italy commend the establishment of a dedicated working group on the matter under the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). In particular, we appreciate the important work on Long Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities and the adoption of a preamble and 21 guidelines. This important work could represent a solid basis for a more comprehensive voluntary instrument covering, at the same time, substantial aspects of safety, security, and sustainability of outer space activities.

Such an instrument would contribute to politically commit nations to globally-shared principles of responsible behaviour, which should serve long-term goals across the full range of space activities. These should include: non-interference in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space; prevention and mitigation of the creation of debris; international cooperation in space; preservation of the integrity of the space environment for all; equitable access to outer space; and transparency in the conduct of space exploration and exploitation activities.

We are also convinced that it is important to develop initiatives aimed at increasing confidence and mutual trust between current and future space actors. In this regard, we would like to highlight the importance of transparency and confidence building measures as a crucial step towards achieving greater safety, security, and sustainability in outer space activities.

Such measures should cover mechanisms of (1) information-sharing related to national space strategies, policies, and programmes, (2) notification regarding space missions and manoeuvres, with a view to reducing the risk of miscommunication and improving space traffic management and (3) consultation with a view to decreasing the risk of disputes.

While not excluding, in the long run, the objective of an international legally-binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, we continue to believe that there would be value in agreeing a comprehensive voluntary instrument within the framework of the United Nations. We therefore encourage further international cooperation to elaborate agreed principles of responsible behaviour in outer space.