



**PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Vinicio Mati,  
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament  
to the First Committee of the 72nd UN General Assembly  
Outer Space**

**New York, 17 October 2017**

*Check against delivery*

Mr. Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

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Mr. Chair,

Space-based applications offer unique resources to all of us today, in the domains of economic growth and innovation, as well as in facing critical issues such as climate change and natural disaster management.

Because of such increasing reliance on space resources, infrastructures, and activities, it becomes imperative to prevent and mitigate the risks associated with lack of traffic management, creation of debris, harmful interferences, miscalculation, and mistrust.

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Mr. Chair,

The sharply increasing number of objects in space is one of the major reasons why a comprehensive and effective international regulatory environment should be elaborated and put into force. Italy is committed to working for the long-term sustainability, safety and security of the space environment.



For this reason we have been among the main supporters of the EU draft International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, as a first, non-legally binding step, which would be fully complementary to other initiatives, including a comprehensive, effective, and verifiable legally binding instrument.

Despite the slowdown in the ICoC negotiations, we continue to believe that a set of globally shared principles of responsible behaviour in outer space would be the most appropriate response to the common sense of urgency expressed by the International Community. Such principles, which could lead to an international voluntary Code of Conduct, 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 of the creation of debris; increasing international cooperation in space; preservation of the integrity of the space environment for all; equitable access to outer space; increasing transparency in the conduct of space exploration and exploitation activities.

We are also convinced that a crucial step towards achieving greater safety, security, and sustainability in outer space activities is represented by the effective implementation of Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures, including those identified by the Group of Governmental Experts in 2013, endorsed by the UN General Assembly.

TCBMs, such as the exchange of information relating to States' space policies and activities, risk reduction notifications and expert visits to national space facilities, reduce the risk of misunderstanding and miscommunication. They help build mutual confidence and are complementary to the existing legal international framework.

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Mr. Chair,

We strongly support the important work that has been carried out by the COPUOS Working Group on Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. We welcome the conclusion of negotiations on a first set of guidelines in 2016 and stand ready to work with all partners to conclude negotiations on the remaining guidelines by the set deadline in June 2018.

Thank you.