



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York

First Committee of the 74th UN General Assembly

Outer Space

**statement by H.E. Ambassador Gianfranco Incarnato,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

New York, 29 October 2019

Mister Chair,

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

Mister Chair,

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.

Mr. Chair,

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 behavior, 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.

Mr. Chair,

Working on disarmament and security, we have the great responsibility for assuring the proper framework to technological developments in the outer space. In this respect, Italy is fully committed to prevent any dangerous or negative use of this technology, avoiding an arms race in outer space. The outer space should never become an area of conflict.

We actively participated in the works of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (GGE on PAROS). It was unfortunate that the GGE could not reach consensus on a final report; nevertheless, it contributed to widen and deepen the debate with the aim of narrowing different positions. We hope that such debate could in turn advance the work of the Conference on Disarmament on this important domain.

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 behavior in outer space.

Thank you, Mister Chair.