

Conference on Disarmament

4 April 2016

English

Original: Russian and Spanish

Letter dated 23 March 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of the joint statement by the Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to declare that they will not be the first to place weapons of any kind in outer space, signed in New York on 26 September 2015

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the no first placement of weapons of any kind in Outer Space signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergei V. Lavrov and the Minister of the People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Delcy Eloya Rodríguez Gómez on 26 September, 2015.

We would be grateful if this letter and the attached Joint Statement could be issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Jorge **Valero**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of
the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

(Signed) Alexey N. **Borodavkin**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation

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Joint Statement by the Russian Federation and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

The Russian Federation and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

Noting the significance of outer space activities as a major factor in the socioeconomic, scientific and technical development of States and their role in national and international security;

Believe that outer space should be used in accordance with international law for the benefit of all peoples, irrespective of their level of economic, scientific and technical development;

Reaffirm their commitment to the principle set out in Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, which establishes that Member States should refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force, including in outer space activities, and proceed from the assumption that all States will strictly comply with this provision;

Emphasize that one of the international community's key priorities is to conclude an international treaty to prevent an arms race and to prohibit the deployment or use of weapons in outer space;

Hereby state that they will not be the first to deploy any type of weapon in outer space and will do their utmost to prevent outer space from being turned into a theatre for military confrontation and to ensure security in outer space activities. The Russian Federation and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela urge all States with space capabilities to follow their example.

Done at New York on 26 September 2015.

For the Russian Federation

For the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Sergey **Lavrov**

Delcy **Rodríguez**
