



# General Assembly

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## Prevention of an arms race in outer space

### Report of the First Committee

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Szilvia **Balázs** (Hungary)

#### I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

“Prevention of an arms race in outer space:

(a) Prevention of an arms race in outer space;

(b) No first placement of weapons in outer space;

(c) Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space”

was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions [73/30](#), [73/31](#) and decision [73/512](#).

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2019, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 2019, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 89 to 105. At its 11th meeting, on 21 October, the Committee decided, on the basis of the conference room paper before it,<sup>1</sup> on the final composition for the exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament, which was held at the 15th meeting, on 24 October. At its 3rd to 10th meetings, on 10 and 11 and from 14 to 18 October, the Committee held a general debate on the items. The Committee also held 11 meetings (11th to 21st), from 21 to 25 and from 29 to 31 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were

<sup>1</sup> [A/C.1/74/CRP.2/Rev.2](#), available at [www.un.org/en/ga/first/74/documentation74.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/74/documentation74.shtml).



introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 22nd to 27th meetings, on 1 and from 4 to 8 November.<sup>2</sup>

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament ([A/74/27](#));

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report of the Group of Governmental Experts on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space ([A/74/77](#)).

## II. Consideration of proposals

### A. Draft resolution [A/C.1/74/L.3](#)

5. On 5 October, the delegations of Egypt and Sri Lanka, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malawi, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic and Thailand, submitted a draft resolution entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space” ([A/C.1/74/L.3](#)). Subsequently, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Burundi, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 24th meeting on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/74/L.3](#) by a recorded vote of 175 to 2 (see para. 11, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:<sup>3</sup>

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco,

<sup>2</sup> For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see [A/C.1/74/PV.1](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.2](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.3](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.4](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.5](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.6](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.7](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.8](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.9](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.10](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.11](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.12](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.13](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.14](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.15](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.16](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.17](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.18](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.19](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.20](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.21](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.22](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.23](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.24](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.25](#), [A/C.1/74/PV.26](#) and [A/C.1/74/PV.27](#).

<sup>3</sup> The delegation of Ukraine subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

None.

## **B. Draft resolution [A/C.1/74/L.59](#)**

7. On 17 October, the delegation of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Russian Federation, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam, submitted a draft resolution entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space" ([A/C.1/74/L.59](#)). Subsequently, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At its 24th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution [A/C.1/74/L.59](#) as follows:

(a) The fifth preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 114 to 42, with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay,

Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Turkey.

(b) Draft resolution [A/C.1/74/L.59](#), as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 123 to 14, with 40 abstentions (see para. 11, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Albania, Australia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Haiti, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey.

### C. Draft resolution [A/C.1/74/L.58/Rev.1](#)

9. On 30 October, the delegation of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), submitted a draft resolution entitled "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space" ([A/C.1/74/L.58/Rev.1](#)). Subsequently, the Central African Republic and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. At its 24th meeting on 5 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution [A/C.1/74/L.58/Rev.1](#) as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 111 to 40, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Japan, Malawi, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Turkey.

(b) Operative paragraph 3 was retained by a recorded vote of 55 to 50, with 48 abstentions. The voting was as follows:<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The delegation of Guatemala subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain.

*In favour:*

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Yemen.

(c) Draft resolution [A/C.1/74/L.58/Rev.1](#), as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 124 to 41, with 10 abstentions (see para. 11, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:<sup>5</sup>

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan,

<sup>5</sup> The delegation of Ukraine subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote against.

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Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Japan, Malawi, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Turkey.

### III. Recommendations of the First Committee

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I Prevention of an arms race in outer space**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Reaffirming* the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

*Reaffirming also* the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

*Reaffirming* paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>2</sup> in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on this issue, the most recent of which is resolution 73/30 of 5 December 2018, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

*Recognizing* that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

*Emphasizing* the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

*Considering* that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

*Noting* that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

*Noting also* that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,<sup>3</sup>

*Emphasizing* the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

*Convinced* that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

*Stressing* that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

*Recalling*, in this context, its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions [45/55 B](#) of 4 December 1990, [47/51](#) of 9 December 1992 and [48/74 A](#) of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

*Conscious* of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

*Recognizing* that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Conference on Disarmament and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

*Noting with satisfaction* the constructive, structured and focused debate on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament each year from 2009 to 2019,

*Noting* the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects in 2008 and the submission of its updated version in 2014,<sup>4</sup>

*Welcoming* the comprehensive and substantive discussions of the Group of Governmental Experts that was convened in 2018 and 2019 pursuant to its resolution [72/250](#) of 24 December 2017,

*Taking note* of the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish for its 2009 session a working group to discuss, substantially, without limitation, all issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and the decision to establish for its 2018 session a subsidiary body on the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;<sup>1</sup>

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable

<sup>3</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 ([A/47/27](#)), para. 76.

<sup>4</sup> See [CD/1839](#) and [CD/1985](#).

to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to establish a working group under its agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" as early as possible;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space, without prejudice to efforts towards the conclusion of an effective and verifiable multilateral agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

## Draft resolution II

### No first placement of weapons in outer space

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [69/32](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/27](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/32](#) of 5 December 2016, [72/27](#) of 4 December 2017 and [73/31](#) of 5 December 2018, and its resolutions [45/55 B](#) of 4 December 1990 and [48/74 B](#) of 16 December 1993, which, inter alia, confirm the importance of transparency and confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space,

*Recognizing* the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Seriously concerned* about the possibility of an arms race in outer space and of outer space turning into an arena for military confrontation, and bearing in mind the importance of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>1</sup>

*Conscious* that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

*Reaffirming* that practical measures should be examined and taken in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space in a common effort towards a community of shared future for humankind,

*Emphasizing* the paramount importance of strict compliance with the existing legal regime providing for the peaceful use of outer space,

*Reaffirming its recognition* that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee prevention of an arms race in outer space and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime,

*Convinced* that such measures could critically improve conditions for efficiently addressing the threat of an arms race in outer space, including the placement of weapons in outer space,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,<sup>2</sup> and the submission of its updated version in 2014,<sup>3</sup>

*Considering* that transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities are an integral part of the draft treaty referred to above,

*Stressing* the importance of the political statements made by a number of States<sup>4</sup> that they would not be the first to place weapons in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space and the willingness of States to contribute to reaching this common goal;

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

<sup>2</sup> See [CD/1839](#).

<sup>3</sup> See [CD/1985](#).

<sup>4</sup> Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cambodia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

2. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum on this subject,<sup>5</sup> has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement, or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

3. *Urges* an early commencement of substantive work based on the updated draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects,<sup>3</sup> introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,<sup>2</sup> under the agenda item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”;

4. *Stresses* that, while such an agreement is not yet concluded, other measures may contribute to ensuring that weapons are not placed in outer space;

5. *Encourages* all States, especially spacefaring nations, to consider the possibility of upholding, as appropriate, a political commitment not to be the first to place weapons in outer space;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”, the sub-item entitled “No first placement of weapons in outer space”.

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<sup>5</sup> See resolution [S-10/2](#).

### **Draft resolution III**

## **Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 71/31 and 71/32 of 5 December 2016, 71/90 of 6 December 2016, 72/250 of 24 December 2017, 73/6 of 26 October 2018 and 73/91 of 7 December 2018 and its decision 73/512 of 5 December 2018, as well as its other resolutions and decisions on this subject,

*Recognizing* the catastrophic consequences of the weaponization of outer space or any military conflicts in outer space and that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

*Emphasizing* the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>1</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, with the objective of shaping a community of shared future for humankind,

*Recognizing* that, while the existing international treaties related to outer space and the legal regime provided for therein play a positive role in regulating outer space activities, they are unable to fully prevent the placement of weapons in outer space and therefore avert an arms race there, and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce this regime,

*Expressing serious concern* over the plans declared by certain States that include the placement of weapons, in particular strike combat systems, in outer space,

*Convinced* that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent the weaponization of outer space and, as a consequence, an arms race in outer space,

*Welcoming*, in this regard, the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,<sup>2</sup> and the submission of its updated version in 2014,<sup>3</sup>

*Stressing* the importance of the political statements made by a number of States<sup>4</sup> that they would not be the first to place weapons in outer space,

*Recognizing* the primary role and responsibility of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

1. *Welcomes* the deliberations held in 2018 and 2019 by the Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

<sup>2</sup> See [CD/1839](#).

<sup>3</sup> See [CD/1985](#).

<sup>4</sup> Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cambodia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

Race in Outer Space, which is tasked with considering and making recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space;

2. *Emphasizes* that the work of the Group of Governmental Experts has constituted an important contribution to international efforts to conclude the above-mentioned international legally binding instrument;

3. *Expresses regret* that, due to the position of one expert, consensus could not be reached on the final report of the Group of Governmental Experts;

4. *Recommends* that the work of the Group of Governmental Experts be taken into account in the search for further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, in particular in the course of future negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on the international legally binding instrument in this regard;

5. *Requests* the former Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts to report to the relevant multilateral forums, including the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, on the work done by the Group;

6. *Urges* the international community to continue its efforts aimed at preventing an arms race, including the placement of weapons, in outer space, with a view to maintaining international peace and strengthening global security;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space", the sub-item entitled "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space".

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