



**THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

Statement

By

the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

at

The Sixty sixth session of

the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

**Agenda item 5: Ways and means of maintaining outer
space for peaceful purposes**

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Vienna, Austria

In the name of God, the most compassionate, the most merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Nowadays, outer space as an undeniable part of making welfare and establishing sustainable development in many aspects of our life, has unprecedentedly encountered severe risks and challenges that raised nations' concerns. Among all, weaponization, arms race, and the possibility of space junk collisions are known as major threats to the future of exploration, exploitation and utilization of this common province.

In fact, despite of getting indisputable benefits from space assets, relying on such a delicate and vulnerable environment can be quite risky, since any adverse action of a single party may impact all other participants.

New technologies create new possibilities and opportunities, but they also cause new problems and space technology is not exceptional. In other words, it is too difficult for States to ensure that their critical space assets is operating in a safe, stable and predictable environment.

Hence, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly reiterate that outer space and other celestial bodies, as a common heritage must be exclusively used peacefully for the benefit of all mankind. We are also deeply concerned about the increasing threat of weaponizing and aggressive use of outer space by some certain States.

In this vein, I.R.Iran is of the view that, on one hand, the current legal mechanisms leading space activities are unable to deal with emerging issues, on the other hand, the new multilateral initiatives, guidelines, and other frameworks are mostly subjected to either space power's conflicts, disagreements, and repeatedly rejections, or are subjected to other nation's negligence and incompliance. So, it is hard to

be hopeful about achieving a globally accepted framework that is comprehensively enable with enough guarantee to make a significant shift in approaches and improvement in the current concerning situation.

Mr. Chairman,

The noteworthy point is that, as long as a few spacefaring States, consider outer space as a new battlefield, establishing space forces and seeking unilateralism and superior dominance, maintaining sustainability and peace in outer space would be a far-reaching goal or even impossible to achieve.

All States must be aware that space conflict never have any winner, and not only the engaging sides, but the other non-involved parties are losers of this battle. As a prominent example in this regard, our past experiences in certain sensitive fields, clearly demonstrates that any kind of arms race, including in space, will make our planet a more dangerous place to live. So, preventing an arms race in outer space is the first step to ensure preserving space as a peaceful domain for the current and next generations. Unlike some countries pursuing to make space a platform for confrontation, we ask all countries to perceive it as a potential domain for collaboration and collective security enhancement, rather than tension escalation and destabilization. Deploying large constellations for some military purposes that are currently carried out by specific countries may put peaceful utilization of outer space under question. Furthermore, broadcasting any signal either containing internet or violent media content without States' permission and disrespecting territorial sovereignty, is in clear contradiction to international law, space law and human rights law as well.

That's why we firmly believe that, the one who avoid making instability in space, or on earth through space, will indeed be the first beneficiary of this sound circumstance.

Therefore, it is highly essential to maintain space free from deploying any sort of conventional and mass destruction weapons. Besides, misinterpretations due to ambiguity in defining and characterizing important terms including space weapons, dual-use concept, military use, and aggressive intentions may lead to other kinds of challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

To sort out such problems, COPUOS must effectively play its pivotal role in the field of space regulations and make States ready to accept legal obligations and shoulder more responsibility to preserve outer space for peaceful uses, exploration and exploitation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman,