Agenda Item 10: General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures

Republic of Korea

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Thank you, Chair.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

In recent years, space activities have increased exponentially, resulting in the proliferation of space objects and space debris thereof, posing a significant threat to the space environment. In these circumstances, it is now imperative to address the issue of space debris to ensure safety and sustainability in the use of outer space.

In an effort to mitigate space debris, Korea has pledged not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing with many other countries. Furthermore, domestic policies related to this issue are being strengthened. During the 62nd Legal Subcommittee session held last year, we shared our plans for enhancing space situational awareness capabilities and developing related technologies as outlined in the "Recommendation on the Development and Operation of Spacecraft for the Purpose of Mitigating Space Debris"

and the "4th Master Plan for Promoting Space Development." Currently, we are in the process of establishing the '2nd Basic Plan on Space Hazard Preparedness," a 10-year strategy spanning from 2024 to 2033 in space safety. Additionally, we plan to launch a small satellite capable of capturing and removing space debris by 2027 to conduct in-orbit removal tests.

Chair,

Space debris mitigation is a seminal issue in the sustainable development of space activities and is closely connected with the topics of Space Traffic Management (STM) and small satellite activities. Therefore, we need to take a holistic approach regarding R&D and institutions related to these agendas.

The issue of space debris mitigation is a collective concern that requires joint preparation and response by the international community. The Republic of Korea firmly believes that our continued discussions and collaborative efforts on space debris mitigation will secure safety and sustainability in global space endeavors.

Thank you, Chair.

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