

## **Agenda Item 6 : Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes**

### **Republic of Korea National Statement**

#### **Sixty-Seventh Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**June 19, 2024**

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Chair,

When the Outer Space Treaty was signed in 1967, the international community was already aware of the potential impact and benefits of space technologies for all States. Today, this potential has become a profound reality.

Indeed, outer space has unlocked a new horizon of opportunities for humankind, with space-based technologies and assets such as satellites driving sustainable development in all aspects.

As such, any actions that hinder the peaceful use of outer space can have far-reaching, irreversible consequences of an unprecedented magnitude. For instance, a nuclear detonation in space would pose a serious threat to everyone's right to safe, secure, and sustainable uses of outer space

- the very reason this Committee was founded.

In this regard, it is essential that all States Parties reaffirm their existing obligations under the Outer Space Treaty. This includes the commitment not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, to install such weapons on celestial bodies, or to station such weapons in outer space in any other manner.

The Republic of Korea deeply regrets that the Draft Security Council Resolution on Weapons of Mass Destruction in Outer Space, put forward by the United States and Japan, could not be adopted due to a veto by a Permanent Member State. It is worth noting that 13 Council Members, including the Republic of Korea voted in favor of the Resolution with the cross-regional support of 65 cosponsors.

Chair,

The security landscape in outer space is becoming increasingly complex due to various challenges and threats. In this context, there is a genuine necessity to further develop rules, norms and principles in the space domain in order to address all space threats.

We firmly believe that progress in this Committee, as well as in other

relevant UN fora, can contribute to international cooperation in the responsible, peaceful, and sustainable exploration and use of outer space. In particular, voluntary mechanisms proposed and established in this Committee, including the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, have provided us with meaningful cornerstones for responsible space activities in the exploration and the peaceful use of outer space.

The Republic of Korea would like to emphasize that this Committee and its subcommittees are unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. They are essential for the global governance of outer space activities, consistent with international law, for developing international space law. As we strive to keep the Committee agile and relevant in the rapidly evolving nature of outer space, the Republic of Korea stands ready to work with other nations in this endeavor.

Thank you.