

Brazil, item 5

Mr. Chairperson,

Maintaining outer space peaceful is essential for its sustainability. This is self-evident in our discussions in this Committee, as any use of force in outer space threatens a chain effect that can render large swathes of earth's orbit unusable. As our economies and societies grow ever more reliant on outer space applications, the impact of any such instance could be catastrophic. Critical infrastructure, energy generation, financial markets, navigation through land, sea and air, disasters' risk reduction are all areas that rely heavily on the safe secure and peaceful use of outer space.

In order to avoid the risk of such scenario, the international community, and especially space leading faring nations, must reaffirm and fully uphold international law, international space law, its principles and its institutions. Where legal gaps or uncertainty arise, new norms shall be multilaterally agreed. Regional and plurilateral initiatives can be a step in the right direction, but are not sufficient. Brazil thus supports the strengthening of the role of COPUOS as the main multilateral forum dedicated to the peaceful uses of outer space.

Current initiatives of this Committee, such as the discussions on long-term sustainability, space resources, lunar activities and space traffic management, are all relevant to avoid misunderstandings and reduce the risks of unintended harmful interference over States' space activities. We call on all States to work constructively on these issues and pursue practical and concrete progress on space regulations, without contamination by issues outside the purview of this Committee. Furthermore, we call on all States, particularly the leading space faring nations, to increase transparency, implement coordination mechanisms and invest in confidence building measures.

Mr. Chairperson,

Brazil strongly rejects the notion of placing any weapons in outer space. In this vein, we support the commencement of negotiations on a legally binding treaty on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) in the Conference on Disarmament. We have also already voiced our support to the negotiation of a Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects (PPWT). We hope the recently established OEWG on PAROS, chaired by Argentina, will move us in that direction.

Thank you.