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Agenda item 96 (c)

Prevention of an arms race in outer space: further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space

Algeria, Angola, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Russian Federation, South Africa, Suriname and Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution

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, [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,¹

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,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.



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 2008,² and the submission of its updated version in 2014,³

Stressing the importance of the political statements made by a number of States⁴ 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 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, 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 an item entitled "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space".

² See [CD/1839](#).

³ See [CD/1985](#).

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