



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 99

## Prevention of an arms race in outer space

### Report of the First Committee

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Muna Zawani **Md Idris** (Brunei Darussalam)

#### I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

“Prevention of an arms race in outer space:

“(a) Prevention of an arms race in outer space;

“(b) No first placement of weapons in outer space;

“(c) Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space.”

was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions [72/26](#), [72/27](#) and [72/250](#).

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 4 October 2018, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 93 to 108. Also at its 1st meeting, the Committee decided, on the basis of conference room papers before it,<sup>1</sup> on the final composition for the exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament. At its 2nd to 11th meetings, from 8 to 12 and from 15 to 18 October, the Committee held a general debate on the items. At its 8th meeting, on 16 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative on the follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and on reports presented to the Committee for its consideration, with a special focus on the United Nations Institute

<sup>1</sup> [A/C.1/73/CRP.2](#) and [A/C.1/73/CRP.3](#), available at [www.un.org/en/ga/first/73/documentation73.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/73/documentation73.shtml).



for Disarmament Research. At its 10th meeting, on 17 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative and other high-level officials on the current state of affairs in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Committee also held 15 meetings (11th to 25th), on 18 and 19, from 22 to 26 and from 29 to 31 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 26th to 31st meetings, on 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 November.<sup>2</sup>

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Conference on Disarmament ([A/73/27](#)).

## II. Consideration of proposals

### A. Draft resolution [A/C.1/73/L.3](#)

5. On 25 September, the representatives of Egypt and Sri Lanka, on behalf of Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Egypt, Eswatini, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), submitted a draft resolution entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space” ([A/C.1/73/L.3](#)). Subsequently, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Samoa, Uruguay and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 28th meeting on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/73/L.3](#) by a recorded vote of 181 to 2, with 1 abstention (see para. 11, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar,

<sup>2</sup> For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see [A/C.1/73/PV.1](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.2](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.3](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.4](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.5](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.6](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.7](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.8](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.9](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.10](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.11](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.12](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.13](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.14](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.15](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.16](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.17](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.18](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.19](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.20](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.21](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.22](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.23](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.24](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.25](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.26](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.27](#) and [A/C.1/73/PV.28](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.29](#), [A/C.1/73/PV.30](#) and [A/C.1/73/PV.31](#).

Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Palau.

## **B. Draft resolution [A/C.1/73/L.51](#)**

7. On 16 October, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Chad, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Guinea, Honduras, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, submitted a draft resolution entitled "No first placement of weapons in outer space" ([A/C.1/73/L.51](#)). Subsequently, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At its 28th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/73/L.51](#) by a recorded vote of 129 to 12, with 40 abstentions (see para. 11, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia,

Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Australia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu.

### C. Draft decision [A/C.1/73/L.50](#)

9. On 16 October, the representatives of China and the Russian Federation, on behalf of Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe, submitted a draft decision entitled "Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space" ([A/C.1/73/L.50](#)). Subsequently, Armenia, Belarus, Ecuador, Eritrea, Guinea, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft decision.

10. At the 28th meeting on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.1/73/L.50](#) by a recorded vote of 127 to 3, with 49 abstentions (see para. 12). The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri

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Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Ukraine, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

### III. Recommendations of the First Committee

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I** **Prevention of an arms race in outer space**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Reaffirming* the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

*Reaffirming also* the provisions of articles III and 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,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

*Reaffirming* paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,<sup>2</sup> in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on this issue, the most recent of which is resolution 72/26 of 4 December 2017, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

*Recognizing* that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

*Emphasizing* the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

*Considering* that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

*Noting* that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution S-10/2.

*Noting also* that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,<sup>3</sup>

*Emphasizing* the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

*Convinced* that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

*Stressing* that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

*Recalling*, in this context, its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

*Conscious* of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

*Recognizing* that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Conference on Disarmament and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

*Noting with satisfaction* the constructive, structured and focused debate on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament each year from 2009 to 2018,

*Noting* the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament of 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 in 2008 and the submission of its updated version in 2014,<sup>4</sup>

*Taking note* of the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to establish for its 2009 session a working group to discuss, substantially, without limitation, all issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and the decision to establish for its 2018 session a subsidiary body on the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions 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;<sup>1</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* its recognition, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance

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<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27)*, para. 76.

<sup>4</sup> See [CD/1839](#) and [CD/1985](#).

its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to establish a working group under its agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" as early as possible;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

## Draft resolution II

### No first placement of weapons in outer space

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Seriously concerned* about the possibility of an arms race in outer space and of outer space turning into an arena for military confrontation, and bearing in mind the importance of articles III and 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,<sup>1</sup>

*Conscious* that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

*Reaffirming* that practical measures should be examined and taken in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space in a common effort towards a community of shared future for humankind,

*Emphasizing* the paramount importance of strict compliance with the existing legal regime providing for the peaceful use of outer space,

*Reaffirming its recognition* that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee prevention of an arms race in outer space and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime,

*Convinced* that such measures could critically improve conditions for efficiently addressing the threat of an arms race in outer space, including the placement of weapons 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,<sup>2</sup> and the submission of its updated version in 2014,<sup>3</sup>

*Considering* that transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities are an integral part of the draft treaty referred to above,

*Recalling* its resolutions [69/32](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/27](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/32](#) of 5 December 2016 and [72/27](#) of 4 December 2017, and its resolutions [45/55](#) B of 4 December 1990 and [48/74](#) B of 16 December 1993, which, inter alia, confirm the importance of transparency and confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space,

*Noting* the importance of the political statements made by a number of States<sup>4</sup> that they would not be the first to place weapons in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space and the willingness of States to contribute to reaching this common goal;

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

<sup>2</sup> See [CD/1839](#).

<sup>3</sup> See [CD/1985](#).

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

2. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum on this subject,<sup>5</sup> has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement, or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

3. *Urges* an early commencement of substantive work based on the updated 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,<sup>3</sup> introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,<sup>2</sup> under the agenda item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”;

4. *Stresses* that, while such an agreement is not yet concluded, other measures may contribute to ensuring that weapons are not placed in outer space;

5. *Encourages* all States, especially spacefaring nations, to consider the possibility of upholding, as appropriate, a political commitment not to be the first to place weapons in outer space;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”, the sub-item entitled “No first placement of weapons in outer space”.

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<sup>5</sup> See resolution [S-10/2](#).

12. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

**Draft decision**  
**Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space**

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution [72/250](#) of 24 December 2017 and other resolutions on this matter, decides:

(a) To welcome the commencement of the work of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts 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;

(b) To welcome the discussions in subsidiary body 3 of the Conference on Disarmament on the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

(c) To include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”, the sub-item entitled “Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space”.

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