



# MALAYSIA

## PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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### STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA

#### DURING THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON OUTER SPACE (DISARMAMENT ASPECTS) OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE DURING THE 71<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 19 OCTOBER 2016

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**Mr. Chairman,**

Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by Singapore on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

2. Malaysia is firmly convinced in the significance of outer space, particularly the prevention of arms race in outer space. It is our belief that outer space must be protected in the common interest of all humanity. Outer space should only be exclusively used for peaceful purposes and should not become an area of international conflict.

3. Hence, my delegation believes in the importance of existing international legal instruments on outer space such as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which prohibits the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in outer space.

4. At this juncture, the existing legal regime to comprehensively deal with weaponization of outer space, particularly to address the ban of testing, deployment and use of other weapons or weapons system in outer space remains insufficient.

5. Therefore, we firmly believe in the need to establish a legally-binding instrument to prevent arms race or weaponization in outer space. We believe that this approach is the most effective means to strengthen the existing legal regime in this area. Such an instrument would provide an impetus to consider surveillance and verification to prevent and restrain the weaponisation of outer space.

**Mr. Chairman,**

6. In this connection, Malaysia calls on the Conference of the Disarmament to re-commit and prevent from further delay in its work to agree on a programme of work that includes the agenda item on prevention of arms race in outer space (PAROS).

7. We are also supportive of the proposal to consider the inclusion of a third agenda item to be discussed at the UN Disarmament Commission, on the issue of space security, without prejudice to the commitment, deliberation and outcomes on the existing agenda items.

8. In the absence of a legally-binding instrument to address the issue of weaponization, we believe that securing assets, access to, and activities in outer space requires our continuous attention particularly in the growing role these activities play in the economic, social and cultural development of Member States.

9. The existing vacuum to allow formation and endorsement of best practices, policies and procedures to facilitate and enhance peaceful activities in outer space could benefit from our collective and renewed vigour to address the issue of weaponization in outer space in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

**Mr. Chairman,**

10. As economic and technological development of Member States continue to evolve and become dependent on space technology, Malaysia reiterates the need to ensure that the use and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes continues to be upheld.

11. We remain committed to a collective endeavour that would result in an enduring interest in promoting peaceful, safe and responsible activities in outer space and will participate actively in endeavours that contribute towards this end.

12. Acknowledging the benefits that may be derived from the exploitation and exploration of outer space, Malaysia believes the use of outer space must be promoted on the basis of equality and encourages international cooperation among States in this regard.

13. As such, at the First Committee, we are committed in the continuing our co-sponsorship of the resolution on '*Prevention of an arms race in outer space*' and support of the resolutions on the '*No first placement of weapons in outer space*' and '*Transparency and confidence building measures in outer space activities*'. We strongly believe that these resolutions need to continue receiving our collective and full support.

With this, I thank you.