

First Committee of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly
Joint ad hoc meeting of the First Committee and the Fourth Committee
Republic of Korea

New York

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Mr. Chairman,

1. Space has become an essential part of our daily lives. Due to wide-ranging applications from telecommunications to navigation and weather forecasting, the world is increasingly dependent on space-based services. A disruption to space-based services will instantly affect nearly all states around the globe. It is now obvious that safety and security of the space environment became a global commons that need to be protected by all states.
2. As many reported cases of potential space collision show, one of the main challenges to the safety and security of outer space comes from space debris. The outer space is becoming ever more congested, contested and competitive, and a holistic approach is needed in order to effectively counter these threats.
3. In this regard, the Republic of Korea welcomes this joint ad hoc meeting of the First Committee and the Fourth Committee to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability. It is important to have a practical, flexible and integrated approach in dealing with the issue of outer space. It is our belief that this joint meeting will serve as a starting point to a more structured discussion on how to respond effectively to space challenges by sharing their respective expertise and experiences, maximizing the synergy.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The Republic of Korea believes that it is in common interest of all stakeholders to promote their space programs in a responsible manner. The elaboration and strengthening of voluntary transparency and confidence building measures (TCBM) is necessary. In this vein, it is worthwhile to note the importance of the work carried out by the Group of Governmental Experts on TCBM in Outer Space Activities, whose report was later endorsed in December 2013 by the UN General Assembly Resolution 68/50. We reiterate the importance of active implementation by the Member States of the measures proposed by the report, to the extent possible.
5. The International Code of Conduct (ICoC) for Outer Space Activities is undoubtedly a project of great importance. The ICoC could provide a new reference point by bringing together best practices on mitigating space debris, enhancing transparency and mutual confidence, and sharing information to avoid collisions. It is our hope that we could keep the momentum alive and find a way forward to continue negotiation on the ICoC.
6. In conclusion, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its strong commitment to the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space for the benefit of all mankind. We stand ready to further strengthen international efforts to this end. I thank you.

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