

Intervention by H.E. M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, in the thematic discussion on “outer space (disarmament aspect)” in the First Committee of the 70th UNGA, New York, 23 October 2015

Thank you Mr. Chair.

I begin by expressing my deep appreciation for the manner... you are conducting the proceedings of the Committee. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the NAM on preventing an arms race in outer space. Bangladesh favours strengthening the safety, security and the long term sustainability of outer space activities, particularly with regard to their relevance for addressing issues of climate change, agriculture, health and so on.

Mr. Chair,

Extensive research and advanced space technology made possible further conquest of the outer space which constitutes a common heritage of humankind. Bangladesh, in line with her principled position, supports exploration and use of outer space in a transparent manner exclusively for peaceful purposes. States with major space capabilities bear particular responsibility in ensuring peaceful use of outer space and in preventing arms race in outer space. All relevant existing treaties should be strictly complied with and a ban (on) deployment or use of weapons in outer space in the interest of maintaining international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh believes that further measures should be taken with appropriate and effective verification provisions to prevent an arms race in outer space. In view of increasing threat of weaponization of outer space. It is widely believed that the available legal regime does not in and of itself guarantee the prevention of an arms

race in outer space. That is why we would support initiative to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness.

In this connection, Bangladesh recommends that the Conference of Disarmament (CD), being the only multilateral disarmament forum, commence negotiation without delay on matters relating to "the prevention of an arms race in outer space", in line with UNGA Resolution 69/31 on Prevention of an arms race in outer space. We believe that the draft Treaty Text on the "Prevention of the Placement of weapons in outer space, the threat of use of force against outer space objects" (PPWT), submitted to the CD in June 2014, can be a good basis for discussion toward adopting an international binding instrument. In this regard, we note with satisfaction that the UNGA Resolution 65/68 on "Transparency and Confidence-building measures in outer space activities", adopted by consensus, has already been implemented by the completion of work of the Group of Government Experts and the adoption of a Study. We also welcome the adoption of the UNGA Resolution 69/32 titled "No first placement of weapons in outer space" as an important step forward towards disarmament in the outer space.

Mr. Chair,

Let me conclude by affirming the immense importance of Transparency and Confidence-building Measures including a non-legally binding Code of Conduct among Member States for preventing an arm race in outer space. But that must not be considered a substitute for a legally binding instrument on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS). We should deploy collective efforts towards such an instrument in order to ensure a peaceful and secure world for the coming generations.

I thank you Mr. Chair.