Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1. Over the past 50 years after the signing of the Outer Space Treaty, space technology has developed exponentially. Our daily lives have become more and more dependent upon the peaceful use of outer space. All nations, both space-faring and non-space-faring, have a common stake in ensuring that space be safeguarded as a “common province of all mankind”, and should always be faithful to the responsibility toward achieving this aim.

2. Many people in academia and the media are concerned with the possibility of militarizing outer space. Indeed, the damage that would arise if satellite systems were targeted during a future war would be global. The devastating effects would become magnified considering the dual-use nature of space technology, such as WMD technologies. It is worrisome that the artificial barriers between civil and military activities in space are already dissolving.

Mr. Chairman,

3. On 12 February 2008, the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China officially submitted a draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat of Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects (PPWT) to the
Conference on Disarmament (CD). The Republic of Korea takes this as a meaningful basis for substantive discussions in the CD on the agenda of Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS). My delegation believes the draft PPWT will provide a basis on which we can explore the complex and abstract concepts and natures of outer space. This will contribute to achieving a consensus on ways to enhance the peaceful uses of outer space for all mankind as well.

4. There are advantages and disadvantages of using the CD as a forum to discuss ways to protect the peaceful use of outer space. My delegation believes the CD can address this issue in cooperation with other relevant international fora such as the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the First and Fourth Committees of the UN, and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). We support enhanced dialogue among these fora. By sharing respective expertise and experiences, we will be able to find a viable solution on this matter.

5. My delegation would like to draw your attention to the need to enhance the security of space systems on the ground. Given that the operation of space objects is connected through close contacts with ground control centers, we must be alert to the vulnerability of the ground stations and control centers. Since any disruptions or infringement on space systems, on the ground may cause grave damages to the daily lives of innocent citizens worldwide. In this regard, my delegation would like to remind you and our other colleagues here of the relevance of physical protection on the ground for sustaining the peaceful use of outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The Republic of Korea has been actively pursuing peaceful space activities. In April this year, Ms. Yi So-yeon, Korea’s first astronaut, successfully completed her mission by carrying out 18 space science experiments during her ten day’s stay at the International Space Station. In this process, the Korean government worked closely with the Russian Federal Space Agency. This achievement, which fueled wholehearted support of the entire Korean people for its space activities, makes a turning point in Korea’s pursuit in the peaceful uses of outer space.

7. In concluding, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate my Government's full commitment to the collective efforts of the international community to continue to cooperate with the international community on its peaceful space program.

Thank you.