Mr. Chairman,

Space development is every country's sought-after dream. It has become a recent trend, opening a promising prospect for advancement of human welfare and civilization.

Rapid development of modern science and technology, together with unlimited resources of human creativity, provide us with enough opportunities to conquer and exploit outer space.

In the past, space development was regarded an exclusive privilege of the developed countries; today the developing countries are also actively taking part in space development programs, as soon as their financial and technological resources become available, launching satellites of different purposes that would give a boost to economic development.

Mr. Chairman,

The DPRK embarked on independent research and development of space
satellites from 1980s, in accordance with the National Outer Space Development Prospective Plan, and has launched a number of satellites manufactured with its own resources.

As it experienced successes and lessons in the course, the DPRK was able to develop its space science technology to a higher level, taking a big stride toward building a powerful economic nation.

The DPRK’s efforts to access to and use of outer space is an exercise of sovereignty and also an exercise of its legitimate right as a state party to 1967 Outer Space Treaty and 1975 Registration Convention.

Some countries allege that under the United Nations Security Council resolutions, the DPRK cannot conduct any launch using ballistic missile technology, and even a satellite launch should not be allowed.

If those countries are free to launch their space satellites and only the DPRK is excluded, it is a double standard and an intolerable infringement on the sovereignty of the DPRK.

Anyone who has a fair and objective viewpoint will see the rocket launch of the DPRK as a peaceful satellite, but those who are driven by confrontational policy toward the DPRK, will see it as a long-range missile.

The practice of treating with prejudice and bias everything related to the countries that may have different values is still continued by some arrogant, complacent countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The arms race taking place in the outer space raises serious concerns of the international community.

Outer space is not an arena for major powers to compete for strategic dominance. It is particularly unacceptable that space science and technology which should be applied to human welfare, is being misused for military purposes.
envisaging mass murder and destruction.

The present realities, however, show that weaponization of outer space is overtly under way on the pretext of so-called "national defense".

A typical example is the dogged pursuit of a missile defense system by the US and its allies, citing a non-existing "ballistic missile threats" of someone. Development of space interceptor weapons is in full swing and surveillance satellites roam about the space, busy with collecting and analyzing information of target countries. Such dangerous maneuvers would never be justified in any way.

The international community has devoted painstaking efforts for many years to prevent an arms race in the outer space, and in the course, adopted important resolutions and established practical mechanisms to this end.

However, the existing mechanisms are not enough to prevent arms deployment and arms race in the outer space effectively. In the light of recent developments, it is particularly urgent that a new, legally-binding international mechanism is established.

The DPRK delegation regards that the Russian-Chinese draft treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects (PPWT), tabled to the CD in 2008, can make a positive contribution to space security and global peacebuilding, and would be a good platform for further negotiation.

Mr. Chairman,

The DPRK delegation would like to reiterate its invariable position of opposing weaponization of outer space, and emphasize that the missile defense system is a very dangerous attempt that would undermine geopolitical stability and accelerate arms race.

At the same time, my delegation would like to stress on the priority issue in the peaceful use of outer space, which is to provide universal and non-
discriminatory access for all countries and promote mutual cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation would like to state clearly that the DPRK would continue to exercise its sovereign and legitimate right of space development by launching practical satellites that are essential for construction of a powerful and prosperous nation, while providing transparency of its peaceful purpose through abidance by the international law and practice.

Thank you.