Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes this joint "ad hoc" meeting of the First and Fourth Committees on outer space issues. We would like to thank the guest speakers for their introductory remarks.

As recognized in 1967 by the Outer Space Treaty, the use and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes is in the common interest of mankind. As a developing country with a peaceful space program, Brazil fully shares the view, outlined in this landmark instrument, that space activities must be carried out in conformity with international law, including the United Nations Charter, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding.

In that regard, Brazil believes that the complexity of developments in space activities requires all countries to respond with effective and efficient legal solutions negotiated in the framework of the United Nations that can contribute to preserving space as a peaceful environment, where activities can be carried out in a sustainable manner, with due concern for safety and security.

We reaffirm our commitment to the ongoing work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) towards achieving that goal by establishing a set of guidelines that aim to guarantee the peaceful nature of outer space activities and avoid the potential use of
weapons in space. We also stress the importance of developing countries having full access to the benefits of space technologies and applications by promoting data democracy policies and the use of open source software applications.

Mr. Chairman,

The world we live in strongly depends on space-based resources, which provide essential services to a myriad of peaceful activities. The interruption of these satellite services as a result of the use of weapons in space would cause a major global impact. Therefore, Brazil considers that any use of force in outer space, including weaponization, is incompatible with the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

It is Brazil's longstanding position that the Conference on Disarmament should negotiate a legally binding instrument on preventing an arms race in outer space. Such a treaty should not interfere with the unimpeded peaceful use of outer space but should be sufficiently clear to ban the placement of weapons and the use of satellites as weapons and prohibit any sort of attack on devices in orbit.

In this context, the revised proposal for a treaty on the prohibition of the placement of weapons in outer space (PPWT) presented by Russia and China represents a positive development with a view to starting negotiations.

Together with a growing number of countries, Brazil has been advocating the importance of high level commitment to a policy of no first placement of weapons in outer space, an effort that should be interpreted as an interim step pending the adoption of a legally binding instrument. In that sense, Brazil co-authored Resolution 69/32 ("No first placement of weapons in outer space") and expects that more member states could consider voting in favor of this resolution in the current session of the General Assembly.

Thank you.