Statement by
Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
70th UNGA First Committee
Thematic Discussion on “Outer Space: disarmament aspects”
New York, 23 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM.

I would also like to appreciate and congratulate, on behalf of the delegation of the DPRK, the significant efforts that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office of Outer Space Affairs have devoted to promote international cooperation.

My delegation would like to clarify its position on “Outer Space: disarmament aspects”, one of the major topics on the agenda of this Committee.

Outer space is the common property of mankind to be explored and used by all states on the basis of equality.

The DPRK, as a proud space-faring nation capable of manufacturing and launching satellites on its own, has a great interest in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

The DPRK continues to concentrate its efforts on the development and utilization of application satellites that are necessary for scientific research and economic development of the country. At the same time it is expanding and promoting exchange and cooperation with international space organizations and space institutions of other countries.

This is an exercise of its sovereign right under the universal international law on the exploration and use of outer space as well as an exercise of its legitimate right as a State party to the Outer Space Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,
Today, outer space is challenged by potential threats of armed conflict due to dangerous maneuvers of a certain country attempting to militarize outer space.

Plans for militarization of outer space are being devised and implemented in a blatant manner, triggering an arms race in outer space; the advanced science and technologies are abused to gain military advantages, instead of being oriented to peaceful purposes.

Experiments to test new, sophisticated space weapons are conducted regularly; development of space weapons for prompt strikes at any target on the ground is in full swing.

A good example is the deployment of Missile Defense System in combination with space weapons, which the US pushes ahead on the pretext of countering ballistic missile threats from a certain country.

If such reckless military maneuvers would be justified, the world peace and security can never be ensured.

The DPRK remains unchanged in its position to oppose militarization of outer space.

So far the international community has spared no efforts to attain the objective of the prevention of an arms race and militarization of outer space.

These efforts led to establishment of a series of legal regimes and adoption of some important UN resolutions concerning prevention of an arms race in outer space.

However, the existing international instruments and regimes are not enough to comprehensively and effectively curb the placement of weapons and an arms race in outer space.

Taking up new legally-binding measures for prevention of an arms race in outer space is a fundamental prerequisite to not only ensure the equitable and inalienable rights of all states to peaceful use of outer space but also maintain the peace and security of the world.

In this context, the DPRK delegation is of the view that the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by Russia and China in 2008 and updated in 2014, could be a good basis for negotiation.

The DPRK will always welcome and support any initiative to oppose placement of weapons in outer space and prevent the militarization of outer space.

I thank you. Mr. Chairman.