Mr. Chairman,

The issues of outer space are becoming increasingly relevant in order to ensure international peace and security because space, which is immense, provides incredible opportunities for both peaceful use and military development. The paradox is that this potential does not have any comprehensive legal and regulatory mechanisms to prevent States from using space for military purposes.

A week ago, we commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty, a landmark instrument of the 20th century - elaborated and adopted to reflect the circumstances prevailing at that time. Today, the shortcomings of the Treaty are realistic and call for an urgent improvement. In this regard, the joint ad-hoc meeting of the First and Fourth Committees, held last Thursday, was very crucial to assess possible challenges to security and sustainability. The growing robust expansion into space compels us to review measures needed to overcome the gaps in the existing legal regime to prevent the weaponization of outer space.

Kazakhstan is convinced that placing weapons in outer space will result in an advantage for the few. What is more dangerous is that action by some countries with advanced space warfare technology can result in proliferation by other countries also wanting to acquire it, as has happened with nuclear weapons. Past experience has proved that such theatre of
military action can be concealed, thus becoming a major breach of international security. Presently, lots of countries possess sophisticated space programmes, or are developing them. We need to ensure that such dangerous weapons systems do not undermine the existing structure of agreements on arms limitation, particularly, in the nuclear-missile sphere.

We are supportive of the Joint Resolution of China, Russia and US on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space activities. We also see great value in the resolution on "No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space", which is a positive step towards confidence-building.

Kazakhstan fully endorses the Draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, introduced by China and Russia at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008 and 2014. However, several severe political hurdles and the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) impede all attempts to achieve a legally binding international agreement. Possibly, the provisions of the Draft Treaty do not take into consideration the interests of all parties and it still has a potential to be strengthened, nevertheless this could be a matter of future negotiations. In this view, indeed the CD is the most appropriate and relevant international forum for this purpose.

Kazakhstan fully supports the proposal of China and the Russian Federation on establishing a new expert group intended to further elaborate legally binding measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. We agree with the opinion that, if approved by the General Assembly, the Group's work would help narrow differences on how the outer space legal regime could be further codified and developed, pending the end of the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan has no intention of pursuing the development of space weapons, or deploying them in outer space, now or in the future. On the other hand, my country, which hosts the first and largest cosmodrome on its territory, the Baikonur, is actively developing its national civilian space programme, including the creation of a space rocket complex. This will enable my country to become part of the world market of space services and access to latest technologies within the norms of international
collective security. In this context, the Republic of Kazakhstan reaffirms its continued commitment to the MTCR Guidelines, as announced in 2009 and expects that its application to enter MTCR will be duly considered by member-states during the forthcoming MTCR plenary session.

Kazakhstan has served as a member of several Groups of Governmental Experts, like on Outer Space, on International Security in the Context of ICTs and other important issues. At the same time, we are also considering how to combat potential threats, like those of hypersonic missiles, outer space delivery technologies, artificial intelligence and other new emerging perils. All of these efforts demonstrate our commitment to make the world a safer and more secure place. You will recall, the very first side-event which Kazakhstan had co-organized with ODA, during the seventy second session of the First Committee, held on 4 October in this very room, and it was dedicated to a discussion on the effect of new technologies on non-proliferation and disarmament.

To conclude, Kazakhstan would like to reinforce that our common goal is to ensure that space remains a sphere of cooperation free from weapons, to be used for human development, well-being and advancement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.