Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia

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Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and ASEAN.

Indonesia reiterates that outer space and other celestial bodies are the common heritage of mankind and must only be used, explored and utilized for the benefit and interest of all nations. My delegation reaffirms that the exploration and use of outer space and other celestial bodies shall be for peaceful purposes only and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development.

There is a shared concern regarding the increasing threats to peace and security in outer space and that the existing instruments against militarization and weaponization of outer space are inadequate to deter that. As important as bilateral arms limitation, codes of conduct, voluntary mechanisms and other such tools against arms race in outer space are, they are not replacement for a universal legally binding instrument. Further, with the disarmament stalemate and the volatile international security environment, the issue of prevention of arms race in outer space, requires urgent attention from everyone.

Mr. Chairman,

For the past two decades, the General Assembly has adopted a resolution by an overwhelming majority, calling for negotiation and conclusion of an international legal instrument on the prevention of weaponization of outer space.

We believe that the Resolution 72/27 that calls for an exclusively peaceful use of outer space, the Resolution 72/250 for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, as well as other General Assembly resolutions relating to the prevention of arms race in outer space, are urgently need to be realized.

As a Member State to the Conference on Disarmament (CD), Indonesia welcomes and supports the establishment and the work of the Subsidiary Body on the Prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), in the CD this year. We are pleased with the in-depth discussions conducted in the Subsidiary Body. Indonesia welcomes the Subsidiary Body’s report and is further convinced that the need of a universal legally binding instrument on PAROS is real.
Indonesia also welcomes the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts to "consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the PAROS, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space", which has started its work on last August in Geneva. We look forward to its outcome and fervently hope that it can contribute to the early commencement of negotiations on a universal legally binding instrument on PAROS.

In this connection, Indonesia calls upon the CD, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, to begin negotiations on matters related to the "Prevention of arms race in outer space" without delay. It is time that all countries displayed their political will to negotiate.

In closing, Indonesia would underscore that all countries have a responsibility to not undertake any activities that could jeopardize the collective goal of maintaining a weapons free outer space. Let us all ensure that the exploration and use of outer space and other celestial bodies only have peaceful objectives, and it will give benefit to the progress of all mankind.

Thank you.