Statement by

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at the First Committee Thematic Discussion
on Outer Space (disarmament aspects)

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Mr. Chairman,

Myanmar aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) and ASEAN, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Maintaining a safe, secure, stable and sustainable outer space, and preventing outer space from becoming an area of conflict are imperative for all of us. The growth in the amount of human spaced activities, the increasing number and diversity of actors operating in outer space, the proliferation of hazardous space debris, and increasing dependence on outer space in the civilian, government and military sectors can lead to increasing risk of weaponization, space accidents, and conflicts over scarce resources.

While the advancement of technological capability and commercial utilization of outer space is commendable, we have to keep in mind that these advanced technologies should ultimately be used for the benefit of mankind for their socio-economic and technological development. In addition, the exploration and use of outer space should be only for peaceful purposes and should be carried out for the benefit of all countries and their people, regardless of their level of economic and scientific development.

To this end it is necessary for all states to work together and double our efforts to address the increasing threats to peace and security in outer space which we all have concerns.

Mr. Chairman,

Preventing an arms race in outer space and strict compliance with the existing legal frameworks concerning the use of outer space are importance. In doing so, transparency and confidence-building measures are essential to maintaining the peace and security, safety and sustainability of activities in outer space, and to preserving the secure space environment for all.

The recommendations of the GGE, established pursuant to the resolution A/RES/65/68, contained in its consensus report of 29 July 2013, are good basis for the outer space transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs). They are relevant and necessary for prevention of arms race in outer space (PAROS). However, they are voluntary measures and cannot be a substitute for a legally binding treaty on PAROS.

Therefore, we welcome all efforts and proposals made under the agenda item “prevention of an arms race in outer space”, including the updated draft treaty text
submitted jointly by the Russian Federation and China. We believe that this initiative is constructive and a good contribution to the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community and has a primary role in dealing with issues of disarmament. In this regard, we call for the Conference on Disarmament to start, without delay, negotiations on matters related to PAROS including the proposed draft treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

It is the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space. Thus, it is our common responsibility for the strengthening the sustainability, stability and security of outer space.

We must act together to realize our common goal of creating a safe, secure, stable and sustainable outer space.

I thank you.