Mr. Chairman,

The development of space technologies and the significant increase in the number of space actors have made our everyday socio-economic life more dependent on space activities than ever before. The risks and challenges associated with the safety, security and sustainability of outer space have proportionately increased. Just to name a few, space debris, potential collision of space objects and irresponsible behaviors pose serious threats not only to spacefaring but also to non-spacefaring nations.

Mindful of such challenges, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to the peaceful uses of outer space and urges all States to use the outer space in a responsible and transparent manner in accordance with existing international norms.

Mr. Chairman,

It is often criticized that the development of outer space norms has been too slow to reflect the contemporary realities. Such claim is not without a reason, but it is the view of my delegation that the Outer Space Treaties provide us with effective common ground in our joint endeavor to prevent an arms race in the
outer space. We also take note of the efforts of the international community in recent years for the progress of space-related norms.

In this regard, my delegation welcomes the substantive discussions on this subject made at various disarmament bodies this year; namely at the Conference on Disarmament, Group of Governmental Experts on PAROS and the UNDC.

We particularly take note of the launch of a new Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on PAROS this year. Even though there still remain some difficulties such as the lack of definition on space weapons and verification measures, we hope that the GGE will continue to explore practical options that would enhance peace and security of outer space while not posing undue constraints on their peaceful uses. My government will continue to make a constructive involvement through our participation in the GGE.

Mr. Chairman,

In our joint efforts for the peaceful use of outer space, my delegation believes that priority should be given to the TCBMs, Transparency and Confidence-building Measures. We believe that TCBMs of all forms — unilateral declarations, bilateral commitments or multilateral codes of conduct — encourage responsible actions in outer space, and are useful and indispensable in addressing concerns for outer space security and sustainability. They contribute to reducing risks of miscalculation or misunderstanding and serve to create a climate of trust and confidence.

In this regard, my government attaches importance to the consensus report of the GGE on TCBMs in Outer Space Activities adopted in 2013 which contains voluntary TCBMs. We also welcome that the UN Disarmament Commission has set out its work this year to prepare recommendations for promoting practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) regarding outer space activities. We also hope that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) will soon complete
its work on the outstanding guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities as early as possible.

The Republic of Korea will continue to play a constructive role in various UN bodies and relevant space fora in order to ensure the peaceful use of outer space and prevent arms race therein. Thank you. /End/