Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan
at the First Committee of the
74th Session of the UN General Assembly

Thematic discussions on specific clusters: Outer space
(29 October 2019, New York)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished participants,

The issues of outer space are becoming increasingly relevant in order to ensure international peace and security. The growing robust expansion into space compels us to review measures to overcome gaps in the existing legal regime to prevent the weaponization of outer space.

Confidence-building measures remain essential in the process of developing general considerations for preventing the militarization of outer space. In this regard, we see great value in the resolution on “No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space”. We are also supportive of the Resolution on “Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space activities”, as well as other resolutions tabled by the US and Egypt.

Moreover, we would like to see in them a greater focus on how to prevent every possibility of an arms race in space. It extremely important to continue a good tradition of organizing joint meetings of the First and Fourth Committees aimed at discussing all possible challenges and threats to security and sustainability. The focus, scope and objectives of the resolutions of the two committees should be clearly delineated without complicating and duplicating each other.

Kazakhstan has actively been engaged in the work of the GGE to further elaborate legally binding measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. We regret that the Group could not adopt its Outcome Document supported by almost all governmental experts.

Mr. Chairman,
Kazakhstan hosts the “Baikonur” space-launch site on its territory and has been actively participating in peaceful space exploration programmes with Russia, France and some other countries.

We understand that nowadays there is no legally binding prohibition of the withdrawal of weapons into outer space. All available international treaties have advisory character. Space technologies are developing at a dynamic pace and there is a big threat of danger of the beginning of an arms race in outer space.

In this regard, we believe that it is vital to have further discussions on the issue of Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) by involving other international bodies that are engaged in this issue. To facilitate the start of these negotiations, we support
a draft Treaty on Preventing Placement of Weapons in Outer Space prepared by China and the Russian Federation.

Mr. Chairman,
Kazakhstan initiated this year a round table to discuss a wide range of practical measures on preventing the placement of weapons in outer space. This event is being organized in the framework of the international forum entitled, "Space Days of Kazakhstan", on 12-13 November 2019 in Nur Sultan. We hope for supporting this initiatives and participation of representatives of all interested States.

We also hope that the meeting in Nur-Sultan will find a solution and will give an opportunity to come to a productive and forward looking agreement between the UN Member States.

To conclude, Kazakhstan, as a responsible international actor and a unilateral adherent to the principles of and guidelines of the MTCR, 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.