Mr. Chairman,

1. I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. NAM recognizes the common interest of all humankind and the inalienable, legitimate sovereign rights of all States in the exploration and use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes. NAM reconfirms its stand to oppose and reject any acts denying or violating it and emphasizes that prevention of an arms race in outer space, including a ban to deploy or use weapons therein, would avert a grave danger for international peace and security.¹

3. NAM emphasizes the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space.² NAM also calls for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.³

¹ Slightly edited Para 2 NAM Statement “Outer space (disarmament aspects)” Thematic debate First Com, 23 Oct’18
² Excerpt Para 3 NAM Statement “Outer space (disarmament aspects)” Thematic debate First Com, 23 Oct’18
³ Excerpt Para 266 NAM Outcome Document Ministerial Meeting, Caracas, 20-21 July’19
4. NAM rejects the declaration by the United States in 2018 that “Space is a warfighting domain” or “the next battle field” and accordingly reemphasizes the urgent need for the commencement of substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), inter alia, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including through the establishment of an ad hoc committee under this agenda item as early as possible, taking note of a draft treaty on the “Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects” (PPWT), presented jointly by Russia and China in the CD on 12 February 2008 and updated in 2014. Taking note of the substantive progress made through the discussions of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) established pursuant to GA resolution 72/250, as reflected in the draft final report of this GGE, and expressing strong disappointment that consensus on the draft final report of the GGE was blocked by its member from the US, NAM notes that it could have represented a good basis for further negotiations towards adopting an international legally-binding instrument.4

5. NAM continues to be concerned over the negative implications of development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense systems and threat of weaponization of outer space that have, inter alia, contributed to further erosion of an international climate conducive to strengthening of international security. The abrogation of ABM Treaty brought new challenges to international peace and stability and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. NAM remains seriously concerned at the negative security consequences of deployment of strategic missile defense systems, which could trigger an arms race(s) and lead to further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.5

6. NAM continues to reaffirm the need for a universal, comprehensive, and non-discriminatory multilateral approach toward the issue of missiles in all its aspects, negotiated multilaterally within the UN. Any initiatives on this subject should take into

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4 Para 34 NAM Omnibus Statement First Com Gen Debate 7 Oct'19
5 Para 33 NAM Omnibus Statement First Com Gen Debate 7 Oct'19
account security concerns of all states and their inherent right to peaceful uses of space technologies.⁶

Thank you.

Word count: 571

⁶ Para 35 NAM Omnibus Statement First Com Gen Debate 7 Oct’19