Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, Sri Lanka, would like to join all other delegations in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and wish you every success in the work ahead.

My delegation would also like to associate itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, under this thematic item.

Mr. Chairman,

From the dawn of time, mankind has looked to the heavens and the stars above. To amend a popular phrase from science fiction- “Space is the final frontier”.

It is the last frontier that needs protection and equal opportunity for humankind for exploration and utilization for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries.

Sri Lanka would like to stress and underscore that outer space is part of the common heritage of humanity. It is our global commons.

We have to ensure that outer space is free of conflict, and it is imperative that we prevent any militarization and weaponization of space.
Mr. Chairman,

It is for these reasons, that Sri Lanka some 37 years ago, tabled a Draft Resolution in 1982 and together with Egypt have been pleased to alternately table this annual resolution for almost 4 decades titled “Prevention of an Arms race in Outer Space” that had enjoyed consensus at one point and global support.

This year we seek the support for this important resolution, which calls for the negotiation of a multilateral instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

We hope this resolution will garner wider support this year. May I thank delegations that attended our informals this year.

I would like to clarify, there had been a technical problem with an older version of the draft resolution added as L3 and not the final draft version dated 17 October that is on the e-Delegate system. This was pointed out to the Secretariat and action has been taken to correct the L3 Document to reflect the correct Text. This is just to highlight in case some has seen the L3 Document last week and were puzzled.

Sri Lanka welcomes the work of the GGE on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space established through resolution 72/250, and regrets that the Group failed to agree on a final report.

I thank you.