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Statement by

Indonesia

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

At the Thematic Debate of the First Committee
On Cluster 3: Outer Space (Disarmament Aspect)

New York, 22 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. NAM recognizes the common interest of all mankind and the rights of all States in the exploration and use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes, 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. NAM remains concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile defence systems and the threat of weaponization and militarization of outer space. NAM further 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. NAM also reemphasizes the urgent need for the commencement of substantive work in the CD, inter alia, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, taking note of the joint Russian-Chinese initiative.
3. NAM continues to be concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defence systems and the threat of weaponization of outer space which have, inter alia, contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the promotion of disarmament and the strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the ABM Treaty brought new challenges to strategic stability and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. NAM remains seriously concerned at the negative security consequences of the deployment of strategic missile defense systems, which could trigger an arms race(s) and lead to the further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.
4. The Movement, while noting some new initiatives on outer space, underlines the importance of a universal, non-discriminatory, and comprehensive approach. In this regard, the Movement stresses that any proposal or initiative on outer space should be pursued within the competent United Nations bodies and any possible decision thereon should be made by consensus.
5. NAM underscores that space science and technology and their applications, such as satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, to improve people's lives, to conserve natural resources, and to enhance the preparedness for and mitigation of the consequences of disasters.
6. In this regard and while underlining the importance of the availability of space science and technology to all interested countries, NAM stresses that they should be utilized in accordance with the international law and the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, in particular promotion of international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.