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Statement by

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to the United Nations**

on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

at

**the Thematic Debate of the First Committee
of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
on Outer Space (Disarmament Aspects)**

New York, 23 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on the theme of disarmament aspects of Outer Space.
2. NAM recognizes the common interest of all mankind and the sovereign 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.
3. 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.
4. NAM remains concerned over the developments related to the anti-ballistic missile systems and the threat of weaponization and militarization of outer space and reiterates its call for the commencement of negotiations in the CD on a universal legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which remains a priority. In this regard, NAM reaffirms that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes only and for the benefit of all States, irrespective of the degree of their social, economic or scientific development.
5. NAM reaffirms its position that the elaboration of any code of conduct for outer space activities should be consistent with the respective mandate of all relevant UN bodies and should be held in the format of inclusive, transparent and consensus-based multilateral negotiations within the framework of the United Nations, based on a proper and unequivocal mandate, without specific deadlines and taking into account the interests of all States, irrespective of their level of development, in order to reach a balanced outcome that addresses the needs and reflects the concerns of all participants.
6. NAM calls for a universal, comprehensive, and non-discriminatory approach toward the issue of missiles within the UN. Any initiative on this subject should take into account the security concerns of all States and their right to peaceful uses of space technologies.

7. 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, to conserve natural resources, and to enhance the preparedness for and mitigation of the consequences of disasters.
8. 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.