

Position Paper of Delegate of P.R. China

Committee: Disarmament & International Security (DISEC)

Topic: International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space/ Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space

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China stands ready to work with all countries to promote the prevention of weaponization of and an arms race in outer space so as to continuously make contribution to the peace, security and long-term sustainability in outer space.

Outer space is the common heritage of mankind. Exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes is the common cause and in the common interests of all countries. With the rapid development of outer space activities, challenges to the security and sustainability of outer space have also increased and become an important issue concerning the interests of all countries. On this issue China has the following views and positions.

1. Demilitarization is the fundamental guarantee to maintain security and sustainability of outer space. The security and sustainability of outer space is facing multiple threats, such as a deterioration of the space environment, space congestion and space debris. However, the most fundamental threat is the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space. Outer space should be the new frontier of human wellbeing instead of a new killing field. If we cannot ensure that outer space is used exclusively for peaceful purposes, the security and sustainability of outer space will be out of the question. China firmly supports the arms control process for outer space.
2. In 2008, China and the Russian Federation jointly submitted to the Conference on Disarmament a Draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space and of the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT), and updated it based on feedback from other parties in 2014. The draft PPWT has received support from many countries. China hopes that other parties will show the political will to start negotiations based on the draft PPWT and achieve an international treaty to prevent the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space as early as possible.
3. In 2014, the draft resolution jointly sponsored by China, Russia and other countries entitled “No first placement of arms in outer space” (A/RES/69/32) was adopted with overwhelming support. This fully reflects the common aspiration of the international community to prevent the weaponization of outer space. China believes that appropriate and feasible Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs) in outer space activities will help enhance mutual trust and reduce miscalculations. In this regard, the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on TCBMs in 2013 represents important progress and provides an important reference for all countries. China welcomes this achievement and believes that while TCBMs can serve as a useful supplement to the prevention of the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space, they should not substitute negotiations on an outer space arms control treaty.
4. The rule of law is an important foundation for maintaining the security and sustainability of outer space. To maintain the security and sustainability of outer space, the international community needs to define through uniform rules what can or cannot be done. All states should earnestly comply with international rules and judge right and wrong, resolve differences and promote cooperation in accordance with rules. First, the outer space activities of States should be conducted in line with the UN Charter and the relevant treaties on outer space. All countries should act in accordance with the rules, fully fulfil their international obligations, exercise their rights in good faith, and be the practitioners and defenders of

international rules governing outer space. Second, we must advance with the times and constantly improve the system of outer space law and rules. Since 1979, the international community hasn't concluded any new outer space treaty. Outer space law has lagged behind the development of space activities. New issues such as space debris, space traffic management, and the commercial exploitation of outer space need to be properly regulated. States should actively support and participate in discussions under the UN auspices.

5. International cooperation is the essential way to promote outer space security and sustainability. The security and sustainability of outer space concern the common interests of all countries, and no country has the ability to address and deal with it alone. All states should bear in mind that we are in a community of interests in outer space, and we need to deliberate and govern together, and jointly meet challenges. Space governance should be open and inclusive. Space governance cannot be monopolized by a few countries, introducing their own rules as international rules. More countries, in particular developing countries, should be encouraged to participate in and fully express their views on outer space rule making.
6. Cooperation is vital to promote and spread the benefits of space technology among all countries, as well as enhance mutual understanding and trust. In this regard, developed space-faring nations should help developing countries enhance their space capabilities and share with them the space exploration "dividend". China is a staunch supporter of security and sustainability of outer space. The peaceful use of outer space and opposition to the militarization of outer space has been enshrined in Chinese law. China also actively carries out international cooperation and exchanges to enhance transparency.
7. China is willing to work together with the international community to make greater contributions to promoting the security and sustainability of outer space.

As the chief designer of the Shenzhou spacecraft academician Qi Faren stated "*Space programs are not aimed at sending humans into space per se, but instead at enabling humans to work normally in space, and prepare for the future exploration of Mars, Saturn, and beyond.*" As such, People's Republic of China continues to conduct and support scientific research and encourage cooperation to advance mankind's goal to outer space.



Shenzhou Spacecraft