Joint Statement

on the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space

Fourth Session of the Open-Ended Working Group Established by UN General Assembly Decision 79/512

Geneva, 24 November 2026

Thank you, Chair.

I have the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Republic of Belarus, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Russian Federation, and my own country, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Chair,

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the preservation of outer space for peaceful purposes and to the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), in the interest of maintaining international peace and security.

We express our grave concern over the official acknowledgment by the United States of having so-called "on-orbit space control weapons". This alarming development marks a dangerous escalation leading to the weaponization of outer space and poses a serious threat to longstanding international efforts to prevent an arms race in this domain.

We recall the concerns repeatedly expressed by the international community regarding military doctrines that characterize outer space as a war-fighting domain. The recent acknowledgment demonstrates the gravity of these concerns and the urgent need for collective action to prevent outer space from becoming an arena of military confrontation.

We strongly condemn any activity aimed at placement of weapons in outer space and reject any attempt to normalize such practices. We call all States to refrain from the placement of weapons in outer space and from any actions that could lead to an arms race therein.

We are equally concerned by the increasing use of space-related capabilities for undeclared purposes. Such actions pose serious risks to the stability, safety, security and continuity of space activities and undermine their long-term sustainability. We emphasize the responsibility of States to refrain from actions

that jeopardize the peaceful use of outer space and the legitimate interests of other States.

We reaffirm the applicability of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, to activities in outer space, and emphasize the importance of further strengthening the existing international legal framework to prevent an arms race in outer space . In this regard, we reiterate the need for the negotiation and conclusion of a comprehensive, effective, non-discriminatory and multilaterally verifiable international legally binding instrument on PAROS, including provisions prohibiting the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects or by their means.

In this context, we consider the revised draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (PPWT), submitted by China and the Russian Federation as well as the substantive report of the Group of Governmental Experts, established by the General Assembly resolution 77/250 of 30 December 2022, as a useful basis for further substantive negotiations. While recognizing the contribution of transparency and confidence-building measures, we emphasize that such measures cannot substitute for legally binding obligations.

We confirm the importance of the international initiative not to be the first to place weapons of any kind in outer space and encourage all states, especially space-faring nations, to consider the possibility of upholding such a political commitment.

We call upon the Open-Ended Working Group to address these alarming developments with the urgency they warrant and to advance substantive recommendations towards preventing the placement of weapons in outer space.

Mr. Chair,

The preservation of outer space for peaceful purposes is a common responsibility of the international community. The placement of weapons in orbit must not be allowed to establish a new reality in outer space or undermine our collective efforts to prevent an arms race in this domain.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.