



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by the Representative of the Republic of Korea First Committee of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly Outer Space

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Mr. Chairman,

1. Since the space age began more than five decades ago, the international community has made continued efforts to ensure that outer space is used only for peaceful purposes. Our ventures into space have already contributed to the improvement of human life through the rapid development of space science and technology and the broad expansion of space applications.
2. The increase in the number of space actors and space users, however, has also led to a more congested and competitive space environment. Against this changing backdrop, enhancing international cooperation to ensure the peaceful uses of outer space has become a matter of priority for the entire international community. The United Nations treaties on outer space represent a robust legal framework, crucial for supporting space activities and for strengthening international cooperation to this end. The Republic of Korea, as a State Party to all major treaties on outer space, supports adherence to the UN space treaties and the principles contained therein as necessary conditions for conducting peaceful space activities.
3. The application of the existing treaties on outer space should be constantly reviewed to ensure the relevance of the current space law regime, given the current developments in space activities. In this vein, the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space or COPUOS should be strengthened, and the interaction among COPUOS and its two subcommittees should be further intensified.
4. The changing space-activity environment also requires the international community to take a substantive and visionary approach to practical issues relating to ways and means of using outer space for peaceful purposes. We believe that, in order to maintain the peaceful nature of space activities and prevent an arms race in outer space, COPUOS should cooperate and

coordinate with the Conference on Disarmament and the relevant Committees of the United Nations.

5. With regard to the repeated allegation by the DPRK on its right of peaceful outer-space activity, my delegation would like to recall that any launch using ballistic missile technology by the DPRK is a clear violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, which prohibit such activity. It is without saying that all UN member states should abide by the United Nations Security Council resolution which is legally binding.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Strengthening the safety, security, and long-term sustainability in outer space is a key priority for the international community. The importance of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) cannot be over-emphasized in this regard.
7. The Government of the Republic of Korea thus welcomes the adoption of the Report by the Group of Governmental Experts on Outer Space Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities in July of this year. We also welcome the efforts led by the European Union to develop an 'International Code of Conduct on Outer Space Activities (ICOC).' The Republic of Korea has actively joined the efforts to bring the ICOC to fruition. We also hope that the upcoming Open-Ended Consultations on the Proposal for an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities in Bangkok this November will make further progress in strengthening transparency and confidence-building measures on outer space activities.
8. As the number of countries and actors participating in space activities increases, the global community should look into how the space-faring and non-space-faring nations could use space in a collaborative way. Such collaboration will contribute to bridging the development gap and enable us to proceed together towards the common goal of sustainable development. International cooperation in the fields of space activities and capacity-building should be further enhanced in this vein.
9. For its part, the Republic of Korea emphasizes the importance of enhancing international cooperation. We have been providing data from the multi-purpose satellite KOMPSAT to support disaster relief and mitigation efforts around the globe. We have also assisted partner countries in using space technology by hosting an annual International Space Training Program since 2010, to name just a few of our activities.
10. In closing, the Government of the Republic of Korea reaffirms its strong commitment to the sustainable and long-term use of space for the benefit of humankind as a whole. We stand ready to further strengthen international cooperation to this end.

Thank you. /END/