



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

820 Second Avenue, 13th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel: (212) 972-3105/3108 Fax: (212) 972-3154

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**Statement by Mr. Kim Ju Song
Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DPRK
Sixty-Eighth UNGA First Committee
Thematic Discussion on Outer Space (Disarmament Aspects)**

Mr. Chairman,

The Outer Space is the common wealth of the humankind together with all other celestial objects and it is the common will and desire of the international community to use it for peaceful purposes.

However, on the contrary, the attempts in recent years to use the Outer Space for military purposes are continuing, giving rise to great concerns of the international society, as they constitute serious threats to the world peace and security.

One typical example is the ongoing establishment of the missile defense system.

As well known already, some countries are developing on a full scale basis the space weapons system conducting numerous launches of military satellites into the Outer Space.

The establishment of the missile defense system is nothing but the extension of the confrontation policy of the Cold War times with its main purpose of gaining military hegemony eventually while creating arms race in the Outer Space.

And yet what cannot be overlooked are the attempts to openly justify the missile defense system which is being tried to be covered up, on the pretext of a non-existing ballistic missile "threat" of somebody else.

So far, even peaceful launches have been questioned under the pretext of "launches using ballistic missile technology" and moreover, legitimate right of a sovereign state to explore the Outer Space which is officially recognized under the international law is being rampantly infringed upon.

Using rocket technology is the only means of launching satellites and to all satellite launches into the Outer Space, ballistic missile technology was introduced with no exception at all.

However, the logic that some are allowed and some are not allowed because it is dual-use technology does not make sense and it is against the UN Charter which states respect to principles on sovereign equality as the fundamental principle in UN activities.

All states have the right to peaceful space development under the international law and such legitimate right should not be discriminated.

In particular, high-handedness and arbitrariness to monopolize in pursuit of military strategic interests, the Outer Space which is the common wealth of the humankind should not be tolerated under any circumstances.

In this prospect, my delegation supports the 2008 Russian-Chinese draft *Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects* (PPWT).

We firmly stand with our position in opposing and rejecting the militarization and weaponization of the Outer Space.

As a state party to *1967 Outer Space Treaty* and *1975 Registration Convention*, we will keep on with our efforts in peaceful space development and we will actively contribute to the development of science and technology and welfare of the humankind with increased international exchange and cooperation.

Thank you.