I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States have a longstanding position in favour of the preservation of a safe and secure space environment and peaceful uses of outer space on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis. Strengthening the safety, security, and sustainability of outer space activities is of common interest. It contributes to the development and security of States. The prevention of an arms race in outer space and the need to prevent outer-space from becoming an area of conflict are essential conditions for the strengthening of strategic stability.

Space assets, operated by an increasing number of governmental and non-governmental entities, offer the world enormous benefits unimaginable just a few decades ago. Today these benefits are accompanied by significant challenges stemming from dangerous orbital debris and thus the potential of destructive collisions, the crowding of satellites, inter alia, in geostationary orbit, the growing saturation of the radio-frequency spectrum, as well as the threat of deliberate disruption or destruction of satellites. These challenges call for the serious and timely involvement of states to ensure greater safety, security and sustainability in outer space.

Against this background, the European Union attaches great importance to the development and implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures as a means of strengthening security in the peaceful use of outer space.

The adoption in December 2013 by the General Assembly of Resolution 68/50 on Transparency and Confidence-Building measures in outer space activities without a vote, reflected a widespread support for the need to develop a regime encompassing such measures. The General Assembly welcomed the work of the group of governmental experts (GGE) and encouraged Member States to review and implement the proposed transparency and confidence-building measures contained in the group's report. The European Union was

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

* Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.
pleased to note that in the conclusions and recommendations of its study the GGE endorsed efforts to pursue political commitments, such as a multilateral code of conduct to encourage responsible actions in, and the peaceful use of, outer space.

Following UN General Assembly resolutions 61/75 and 62/43 on “Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures (TCBMs) in Outer Space Activities” and in response to the request by the UN Secretary General to UN members for "concrete proposals" on TCBMs, the EU introduced in September 2007 the proposal for a voluntary Code of Conduct aimed at promoting TCBMs in Outer Space Activities. On 5 June 2012, at a multilateral meeting in Vienna, the European Union presented a draft for an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. The EU has subsequently held three rounds of Open-ended consultations (OEC) on the draft in Kiev (May 2013), Bangkok (November 2013) and Luxembourg (May 2014), at which some 95 UN Member States participated. The European Union informed the UN Secretary General of these developments on the Code.

Many participants suggested progressing from a consultative to a multilateral negotiating phase, in which the draft developed during the OEC process, to which many nations have contributed and which remains open to further changes, would serve as the basis. A number of participants noted the need for United Nations endorsement of the future Code of Conduct.

Mr. Chairman,

The European Union, guided by the concern about the long-term safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities, as well as an eagerness to implement the consensus recommendations of the UN Group of Governmental Experts, is committed to contribute to the conclusion of the multilateral process on the International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities.

We have received significant positive feed-back and broad interest on the initiative for an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, with several UN Member States requesting more time to study our proposal for a resolution calling for commencement of negotiations. Some have also pointed to the cross-cutting nature of the issues of long-term safety, security and sustainability of outer space.

We are ready to move the process from a consultation to a negotiating phase in an inclusive and transparent manner. We are currently consulting with UN Member States on how to reach this phase.

Thank you.