KAZAKHSTAN

Statement
by Mr. Zhangeldy Syrymbet, Counsellor
Department for multilateral cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
at the Thematic Debate of the First Committee, “Outer Space (Disarmament Aspects)”

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Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for the opportunity to present my delegation’s stand at this important thematic debate on Outer Space and space security.

As a member of the Governmental Group of Experts on Outer Space, Kazakhstan believes that the growing importance and robust expansion of the space should compel us to review outer space from the security and disarmament perspectives. Moreover, our space environment has also become extremely fragile and vulnerable to over-exploitation in an unsustainable manner.

The Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China have jointly drafted the Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects (the PPWT), which Kazakhstan endorses fully. However, several severe political hurdles and the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament impede all attempts to achieve a binding international agreement. My delegation also supports the resolution of Russia and China on “No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space”.

Mr. Chairman,

Kazakhstan is convinced that placing weapons in outer space will result in an advantage for the few. What is more dangerous is that action by some countries with advanced space warfare technology can result in non-proliferation by other countries also wanting to acquire it, as has happened in the nuclear field. Past experience has proved that such theatre of military action can be concealed, thus becoming a major breach of international security. Presently, more than 130 countries possess sophisticated space programmes, or are developing them. We need to ensure that such dangerous weapons systems do not undermine the existing structure of agreements on arms limitation, particularly, in the nuclear-missile sphere,

Kazakhstan has no intention of pursuing the development of space weapons, or deploying them in outer space, now or in the future. On the other hand, my country, which hosts the first and largest cosmodrome on its territory, the Baikonur, is actively developing a national civilian space programme, including the creation of a space rocket complex, Baiterek. This will enable my country to become part of the world market of space services and access to latest technologies within the norms of international collective security.

In July 2005, Kazakhstan acceded to the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. Although not a formal member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR),
Kazakhstan is strictly following all regulations in its export policy, and hopes to be accepted as a member of the MTCR.

To conclude, Kazakhstan would like to reinforce that our common goal is to ensure that space must remain a sphere of cooperation, free from weapons for humankind to use for peaceful development and advancement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.