



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

## **Conference on Disarmament**

### **Statement on agenda item 3: prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS)**

**delivered by Amb. Gianfranco Incarnato,  
Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament**

*Geneva, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021*

Mister President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. At the outset and since this is the first time that my Delegation takes the floor under your Presidency, let me congratulate you on the assumption of your responsibility. Please rest assured of my Delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mister President,

I wish to thank today's distinguished panellists for their presentations, which give us many inputs and feed our work on an agenda item that keeps is high relevance for the mandate of the Conference on Disarmament. I believe that what clearly emerges is the affirmation of a New-Space paradigm, which goes together with deep and rapid technological developments.

This make the space domain an always more complex scenario, in which the commercial race is introducing a new face of competition between States. Depending on the area of space in which activities take place, security in space is gradually becoming more linked to economic and social stability on Earth, and increasingly critical to ensuring that future space exploration and exploitation activities are conducted in the most balanced way possible.

Working on disarmament and security, we have the great responsibility of assuring the proper framework to these developments. Italy is firmly committed both at the national and at the international level, because we believe that a comprehensive and effective international regulatory environment should be elaborated and put in place.

Mister President,

Italy warmly welcomed the **adoption of Resolution 75/36**, as we believe it paves the way for a constructive effort by Member States towards identifying irresponsible and threatening actions in outer space, and their impact on international security; and towards addressing these challenges through the adoption of rules, norms and principles of responsible behavior.

Italy has submitted its contribution to the Secretary General, which is available on the web-site of UNODA and it is not my intention today to reference to it. Let me just highlight two aspects which I believe are relevant for our discussion, since for the prevention of an arms race in outer space we need to identify the main existing challenges.

We especially want to underline **two different sets of irresponsible behavior in outer space**. The first category concerns behaviors of unintentional negligence in carrying out space activities with potential or indirect impacts on security. The other one is related with behaviors stemming from intentional actions with direct impact on the security of space actors and its systems, products and services.

In order to tackle both these challenges, we believe that the starting point should be the adoption of voluntary measures and responsible behavior commitments of a non-legally binding nature, including the implementation of voluntary Transparency and Confidence Building Measures in outer space.

Such measures should cover mechanisms of (1) information-sharing related to national space strategies, policies, and programmes - such as the discussion we are having here today, - (2) notification regarding space missions and manoeuvres, with a view to reducing the risk of miscommunication and improving space traffic management and (3) consultation with a view to decreasing the risk of disputes.

Mister President,

I do not want to lose focus and I am aware that Resolution 75/36 invites us to inform this body about our national space security policy, strategy or doctrine. **In July 2019, a National security strategy for space has been approved in Rome** under the auspices of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, as a part of our National Strategy for Space. The document is publicly available and it is my pleasure to inform the CD on its main aspects.

The global space sector is undergoing profound changes, with direct consequences on the sustainability of the space environment itself. Security from space and of space, therefore, is no longer a purely military and national notion, but rather a multi-sector and global issue

In the last fifty years, Italy has developed proprietary space capabilities in the field of Telecommunications and Earth Observation. Moreover, at European level, we actively contribute to the development and implementation of important programmes and scientific missions. So, our National security strategy aims at strengthening and protecting national public and private space infrastructures, and it serves as a reference for institutional, industrial, scientific and commercial organizations in developing their plans, schedules, acquisitions and operations.

The **strategic objectives** that our strategy pursues, through the involvement of all the institutions responsible for State security and defence, are essentially five:

a) to ensure safety and security of space infrastructures, regarded as enablers of the national infrastructure as a whole;

b) to safeguard national security, including by ensuring access to and use of national security capabilities in any given situation;

c) to strengthen and protect the institutional, industrial and scientific sectors, also with a view to protecting national classified information;

d) to promote a space governance capable of ensuring sustainable, safe and secure space operations at international level;

e) to ensure that the development of private initiatives in the space sector is consistent with the Country's overriding interests.

Having in mind these five objectives, Italy implements its National Security Strategy for Space through the following **strategic lines of action** of an operational, procedural and legal nature. These can be summarized in the following four points:

a) strengthening and protecting national space capabilities;

b) protection and supervision of the development of industrial and scientific activities and protection of classified information;

c) international cooperation and promotion of a responsible, peaceful, safe and sustainable use of space.

d) management and development of commercial initiatives in compliance with the international commitments undertaken by Italy and with the national security requirements.

In light of the strategic nature of space infrastructures and their intrinsic link with the national security and protection architecture, we deem essential the adoption of a stratified and all-inclusive approach to prevent, deter and, if necessary, defend against hostile attitudes. Moreover, strengthening and protecting national capabilities will remain vital to increase the national security and resilience in response to crisis and emergency events.

Mister President,

To conclude, I wish to stress that Italy remains fully committed to preventing an arms race in outer space and to precluding outer space from becoming an area of conflict as essential conditions to strengthen strategic stability.

A stable space environment, in which all nations operate in accordance with their responsibilities and in compliance with international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter, would lead to a low risk of intentional threats, and the possibility of conducting activities without having to resort to the development of self-defence capabilities.

We look forward to continuing this dialogue with all the Member States of the CD. While not excluding, in the long run, the objective of an international legally-binding instrument, we continue to believe that there would be value in agreeing a comprehensive voluntary instrument within the framework of the United Nations. We therefore encourage further international cooperation to elaborate agreed principles of responsible behaviour in outer space.

Thank you, Mister President.