



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

Statement on PAROS
by the Permanent Representative of Germany
to the Conference on Disarmament,
Ambassador Peter Beerwerth,
on 1 June 2021

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Mr. President,

- as this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor under your Presidency let me please congratulate you on the assumption of this important post and reassure you of my delegation's full support.
- Addressing security challenges posed by the space domain is more urgent than ever: due to evolving technology and developments, increasing relevance of outer space for security, increasing dependencies on space assets and services as well as an increasing number of objects in space and space debris.
- Growing risks and threats, in particular an ongoing development of counter-space capabilities, jeopardize our joint goal of the free access and safe, secure and sustainable use of outer space.
- This is exacerbated by dual-use-issues and ambiguities regarding the purposes of certain objects as well as the intent of their use, but also insufficient transparency increases the risk of miscalculation and escalation in space.

- Against the background of an increasingly challenging international security environment Germany remains fully committed to the prevention of an arms race in outer space.
- However, the current legal and arms control framework is insufficient to address the threats and security risks in outer space and the evolving counter-space-capabilities. Similar to areas such as cyber or LAWS, outer space security demands new arms control approaches.
- At this point in time and considering the characteristics of outer-space (dual-use issue, difficult attribution and verification), the most pragmatic and realistic way to increase security is to improve confidence as well as to prevent misconceptions and miscalculations. It is our strong belief that this can be best achieved by agreeing upon norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior.
- For that reason, Germany is an ardent supporter of resolution 75/36 and the process set up therein: an international exchange on perceived security threats and risks related to outer space and on ideas on how to mitigate these.
- Germany contributed with a national report and welcomes the various national submissions in implementation of the resolution 75/36. We look forward to the UNGS-report, which will pave the way for the further elaboration of the topic at this year's First Committee.
- Our goal: increased joined understanding and awareness of international community of threats and security risks related to outer space and actual agreement on and implementation of rules of responsible behavior.
- Space is a global commons to be used for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind. Security risks emanating from a destabilized space environment security carry a negative impact on all States depending on outer space services.
- Therefore, international consideration of threats and risks to outer space systems as well as measures to mitigate and reduce them is necessary.
- In this context it is important to stress that we don't see resolution 75/36 in opposition to the RUS/CHN approach.

- Rather, agreeing on norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior will be the first, pragmatic step to increase security and confidence in relation to outer space.
- Ultimately, this might pave the way for a comprehensive, effective and verifiable legally binding instrument designed to cover all relevant threats related to outer space.
- To summarize: Germany remains committed to engage constructively with the international community in order to build trust and confidence to promote the preservation of a safe, secure and sustainable space environment to be peacefully used by us and future generations.

I thank you Mr. President!