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**STATEMENT BY
MALAYSIA
AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
2021 SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
3 JUNE 2021, GENEVA**

Mr. President,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor under your Presidency, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption as President of this Conference. Malaysia deeply appreciates the consultations that you, and the previous Presidents have undertaken thus far in working towards advancing the work of this Conference. Let me assure you of Malaysia's continued full cooperation and support in your endeavour to move the Conference forward. Malaysia extends our warm welcome to Ambassador of Sweden to this Conference and looks forward to working with her. We thank all speakers who have participated in last Tuesday's discussion and for their informative presentations.

Mr President,

Malaysia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Kenya on behalf of the Group of 21. Malaysia joins others in reiterating that outer space and other celestial bodies are the common heritage of humankind, and must be used, explored and utilised for peaceful purposes only, for the benefit and interest of all States.

Malaysia underscores that all states bear the responsibility to refrain from activities that could jeopardize the common goal of preserving a peaceful, safe, stable and sustainable space environment. In addressing the growing risks and challenges in outer space, we believe that there is a need for greater transparency, more dialogue and better exchange of information among all actors. We recognise the value of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs), including a non-legally binding Code of Conduct in promoting trust among states. However, we also believe that while these voluntary measures constitute as a pragmatic way forward, it cannot be a substitute for a legally binding treaty on PAROS.

Mr President,

Malaysia approved its National Space Policy 2030 in 2017. This Policy consists of five pillars namely:

1. Reinforcing governance in optimising Malaysia's access to space capability;
2. Focusing on space technology, infrastructure and applications significant to Malaysia;
3. Driving the development of space science and technology as well as building expertise;
4. Contributing to the economy and well-being of Malaysia;
5. Improving and strengthening international cooperation and networks.

In 2019, Malaysia established the Malaysian Space Agency (MYSA), which is composed of National Space Agency and the Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency.

The main mission of MYSA is to develop national capabilities in the space sector to contribute to economic growth, knowledge and sustainable development, national sovereignty, and well-being of the people.

In line with the National Space Policy 2030 and our commitment to strengthen international cooperation and networks in the space sector, Malaysia is working towards enacting national space legislation to regulate space-related activities in Malaysia. The bill will help Malaysia to meet the international obligations and allow Malaysia to ratify or accede to space-related international instruments, such as the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and the 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

Mr President,

Malaysia has always been supportive of efforts towards prevention of an arms race in outer space. Last year, Malaysia voted in favour of all First Committee UNGA resolutions on PAROS, including the resolution initiated by Egypt and Sri Lanka on “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”, and the UK’s resolution on “Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours”. Malaysia believes on the need to foster more dialogue and exchange of views and information among all member states in order to find a common ground to address issues related to PAROS. We appreciate the opportunity to share our views through this thematic discussion and remain committed to continue working with all stakeholders in this endeavour.

Thank you.