



# PHILIPPINES

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**As delivered**

**United Nations General Assembly  
Open-Ended Working Group on Reducing Space Threats Through Norms,  
Rules, and Principles of Responsible Behavior  
9 May 2022**

**Agenda Item 5: General Exchange of Views**

**General Statement**

*Delivered by H.E. Maria Teresa T. Almojuela,  
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines  
to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva*

Mister Chair,

My delegation congratulates you on your election as Chair of this Open-Ended Working Group, commends you for the manner that you have steered our work so far, and assures you of our support.

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and wishes to share additional views in our national capacity.

Mister Chair,

The Philippines views access to and peaceful uses of outer space as an integral component of its national security and development. Our national space legislation mandates the Government to “focus on space applications that can preserve and enhance the country’s national security and promote development that is beneficial to all Filipinos.”

In recent years, we have expanded our modest presence in outer space as part of our efforts to achieve our Sustainable Development Goals. Our vision of expanding this presence is crucially tied to our national resolve to address key challenge to our social and economic resilience as a people, including to mitigate the effects of climate

change, which is an existential issue for the Philippines as it is for other states. This explains the high importance that the Philippines attaches to this collective exercise that seeks to reduce space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior.

Mister Chair,

We very much welcome the inclusive approach of the OEWG. Discussions on norms, rules and principles should not be exclusive to States with major spacefaring capabilities, or to regional organizations with advanced normative governance frameworks on outer space. As noted by Ambassador Patriota, the world has evolved from the 60s era of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that gave rise to the existing legal instruments on space. Because of the diffusion of space-based technologies and their use in our modern societies, the inclusive approach duly considers the interests, experience, and perspectives as well of commercial actors, civil society and scholars with respect to the mandate of our Group.

We hope that the inclusive conversations in this Working Group will aid us in asking the right questions in this important exercise, building confidence and sharpening convergences, affirming the power of multilateralism especially in this age of difficulties, and future-proofing the international security order.

We remain guided by the following positions:

1. Outer space is not only a global common. It also forms part of the common heritage of mankind. Spacefaring nations are therefore mere stewards for future generations.
2. All nations have the right to peaceful uses of outer space. This right must be exercised with due regard to the rights and interests of others, and to the preservation of outer space for future generations.
3. Preserving outer space also requires that we secure it and keep it free from weapons. Work on a legally-binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space must continue.
4. International law, including the United Nations Charter and International Humanitarian Law, apply fully in outer space.

The ASEAN statement had underlined that the first session of the OEWG kicks off the process of fleshing out our understandings of the principles of international space law as set out in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, such as equality among all States, spacefaring or otherwise; the non-appropriation of outer space; the applicability of international law in outer space; no-placement of weapons of mass destruction; State

responsibility and liability; the State of registry; the duty of due regard; and international cooperation. We appreciate the diligence with which the Chair and UNODA have ensured that the panel discussions set us off well on this path with thoughtful presentations that touch upon such base points.

Mister Chair,

The Philippines wishes to contribute to these discussions with a Working Paper on the duty of due regard that we transmitted to the Secretariat at noon today.

Exchanging our views and clarifying our understandings of these principles already constitute a crucial confidence-building measure that help create the appropriate environment to advance our work in promoting a peaceful, stable, and safe outer space. We hope that delegations will engage constructively in this regard.

We appreciate the contributions of experts from international organizations, industry and the academe to the work of this Group. Their inputs will enrich our discussions and help us proceed with a more grounded appreciation of the current state-of-play in outer space, and the high demands placed by our publics on the conduct and fulfilment of our mandate.

I thank you, Mister Chair.