

**Statement by Germany in the open-ended working group
on reducing space threats through norms, rules and
principles of responsible behaviours on 13 September 2022**

Mr Chair,

Germany is strongly committed to the peaceful use of outer space. Outer space must remain a safe, stable, secure and sustainable environment for the benefit of all humankind.

The free and unfettered use of outer space underpins our way of life and is essential for international security and stability.

Yet the secure use of space is under threat. We observe with great concern the development and testing of counter space capabilities leading to increasing risks of misperception and miscalculation. One of the most pressing threats to security and sustainability of outer space is the testing of direct-ascent anti-satellite missiles by destroying satellites in orbit.

Destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing poses a threat to all space systems and the resulting debris exposes astronauts and satellites of all Nations to unacceptable and avoidable risks for years to come. This was demonstrated by Russia's test in November 2021 creating more than 1.500 pieces of trackable debris, which continue to put at risk not only other states' satellites but also humans aboard the International Space Station.

Germany commends the United States of America for their commitment not to conduct such tests and all Nations who are joining this commitment.

I am pleased to announce that

Germany commits not to conduct destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing.

Germany invites all States to follow suit and advocates for the creation of a universal norm banning such testing.

Germany fully supports efforts within the United Nations with the aim of reducing threats and risks affecting space systems. Conflict and confrontation in space are not inevitable.

Yet there is an urgent need to develop and implement norms, rules and principles for responsible space behaviors to prevent misunderstanding and risk of escalation. Germany calls on all States to conduct space activities in a peaceful, responsible and sustainable manner and to uphold and strengthen a rules-based international order for outer space.