

Mr. Chair,

I wish to begin by thanking you and the UN Secretariat for organizing the first session of the UN OEWG on responsible behaviors in outer space despite challenging circumstances. The Republic of Korea expresses its firm commitment to engage constructively throughout the entire process and render its full support to you, Mr. Chair, as you navigate the international community towards the goal of a safe, secure and sustainable space for all.

The ROK's full statement is available through the OEWG link but we wish take this opportunity to highlight a few points. In light of the nature of the space domain and the activities conducted therein, our approach to defining space threats and risk reduction measures should be based on observable behavior rather than capabilities themselves. As diverse and complex as the challenges are, it is imperative that we take a holistic approach that encompasses an appropriate mix of political commitments, transparency and confidence-building measures as well as applicable international legal instruments.

The recent turn of events is a testament to the fact that mere guarantees or legal regimes devoid of concrete implementing actions and verification are not only hollow but even dangerous. We are also reaching a point where the space around us is no longer spatial and anarchy can no longer adequately serve for peace in the outer space.

Recent anti-satellite missile test show that intentional and destructive behavior by one state can have reverberating effects that may result in the detriment of all. On the other hand, the Republic of Korea welcomes once again the U.S. commitment not to conduct destructive DA-ASAT missile tests and we view this would be an example of responsible behavior.

We hope that we as the international community will be able to find a common ground on defining space threats and identifying norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors. In this connection, the ROK proposes that the OEWG participants consider a set of pre-activity or pre-action notification measures, where appropriate and feasible, as means for transparency and confidence-building. The accumulation of such practice of responsible behavior will ultimately gravitate us towards an international legal space security regime.

With these remarks, the ROK looks forward to constructive discussions and a fruitful outcome. Thank you, Mr. Chair. /END/