

**Second Substantive Session of the United Nations General  
Assembly Open-Ended Working Group on Reducing Space Threats  
Through Rules, Norms, and Principles of Responsible Behavior**  
12 September 2022

General Exchange of Views: Consideration of Current and Future  
Threats by States to Space Systems and Actions, Activities, and  
Omissions That Could Be Considered Irresponsible

**ASEAN Joint Statement**

*Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Sokkhoeurn An,  
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia  
to the United Nations and Other International Organization in Geneva,  
on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian  
Nations (ASEAN)*

Mister Chair:

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
2. At the outset, please allow us to commend you and the Secretariat for your excellent work in convening this second session of the OEWG, and to thank the panelists that lend their expertise this week.
3. During the first substantive session of the OEWG, ASEAN Member States noted that the world has witnessed much change since the dawn of the 'Space Age' about six decades ago. The international community has benefitted immensely from enhancements in the telecommunications and financial sectors which have been made possible by space-based technology.
4. At the 55<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 3 August 2022 in Phnom Penh, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers noted these ongoing

multilateral discussions on emerging issues involving international peace and security, such as outer space. In their Joint Communique issued on the same date, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers reiterated that access to outer space is an inalienable right of all States and that the use of outer space should exclusively be for peaceful purposes only, and for the collective benefit of humanity.

5. Stressing that activities in outer space should not remain the exclusive preserve of a small group of States, we reiterate our call on all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and the maintenance of international peace and security.
6. In this regard, we welcome this opportunity for Member States to exchange views on current and future threats by states to space systems and actions, activities, and omissions that could be considered irresponsible. Undoubtedly, with increased access to outer space comes greater responsibilities for the entire U.N. membership. This further underscores the need for shared understanding and the acceptance of norms developed through multilateral engagement. The discussions these week are essential in this regard.
7. We note the submissions by delegations and institutions that contribute to these discussions, including Working Paper No. 12 submitted by the Philippines.
8. We reiterate that all activities in outer space must be conducted in accordance with international law and the principle of non-appropriation of outer space.
9. We reiterate our serious concern regarding the threats to international peace and security by the possible weaponization of

- outer space or turning outer space into a domain for warfare and armed conflicts, and our commitment to the work of relevant multilateral bodies such as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), which serve as important platforms to promote international cooperation on the peaceful use of outer space.
10. We reaffirm the vital importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and its weaponization; the urgent need for the commencement of substantive negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a legally binding and multilaterally verifiable instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), including the prohibition of the placement of weapons in outer space and the prohibition of the threat or use of force against outer space objects; the need for a universal, comprehensive, and nondiscriminatory multilateral approach toward the issue of missiles in all its aspects, negotiated multilaterally within the U.N., noting that any initiatives on this subject should take into account security concerns of all states and their inherent right to peaceful uses of space technologies.
  11. Finally, we reiterate our call for continued action in mitigating the effects of space debris through relevant multilateral fora, and we stand ready to engage with all parties in moving this agenda forward.
  12. Our discussions this week must affirm the need to ensure that outer space is, both in principle and in practice, a truly global commons which all States can avail themselves to.
  13. You can count on the support of ASEAN Member States as you lead us forward on this work.

I thank you, Mister Chair.