

## **Canadian Statement**

Open-ended working group on reducing space threats

First session

Geneva, May 9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> 2022

### **Agenda item 5. General exchange of views on all matters**

*Note for Translators: The first part of the statement will be delivered in French. We have indicated where the statement will continue in English. For reference, we have included an English translation of the entire statement on the next page.*

#### **[In French]**

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Nous sommes très heureux de vous voir dans le rôle de président de ce groupe de travail à composition non limitée et vous assurons de notre plein soutien.

Monsieur le président,

Tensions sur le sol. Impasse à la Conférence du Désarmement. Malgré ces circonstances difficiles, nous avons décidé de nous réunir aujourd'hui, car ce groupe de travail nous donne l'occasion de changer de cap pour notre avenir. Le Canada accueille cette première session. Nous sommes convaincu que les discussions que nous aurons au cours des prochaines années permettront d'établir un ensemble de normes qui auront pour effet d'accroître la sécurité de l'espace et, par conséquent, de le préserver au profit des futures générations.

#### **[Speaker will switch to English]**

Chair, for forty years, Canada has called for a ban on ASATs. We have made hundreds of statements, submitted dozens of working papers, and chaired a CD Ad Hoc Committee on Outer Space. Our advocacy has been consistent; our pursuit for greater measures of space security unwavering. Today, we build on this legacy. Canada is proud to join the United States in pledging not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing. We encourage all nations to join us so that together we can make this a global norm and towards enhanced space security. Canada recognizes that this is a first step, but it represents the most significant progress we have achieved to date. It is from humble measures that momentum for greater ones are built.

After decades of stalemate at the CD, the time has come for a more pragmatic approach inspired by past successes. Through the development of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, we have seen how agreed upon norms, once established, are able to be codified into law. What the OEWG promises to address is the main challenge to treaty making efforts: the lack of understanding amongst states about what conduct leads to misunderstandings that could fuel an arms race or conflict. Once that is established, translating this understanding into a treaty will be greatly facilitated.

In closing, we encourage states to view the commitment Canada made today as evidence of our good faith in the OEWG. Canada's views are further elaborated in the working papers we have submitted this session. Canada looks forward to collaborating with all states to make this OEWG a success.

Thank you

[End of statement]

**For Translators Reference, copy of Canadian statement in English**

Thank you, Chair. We are very pleased to see you in the role of Chair of this OEWG and assure you of our full support

Chair,

Tensions on the ground. Deadlock at the CD. Despite challenging circumstances, we gathered because this OEWG provides the opportunity to course correct our future. Canada welcomes this first session. We are confident the discussions over the coming years will result in a set of norms that will serve to enhance space security and thereby preserve space for future generations.

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