Mr. Chairman,

We reiterate that outer space is a common heritage of mankind and must be used, explored and utilized exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit and interest of mankind in a spirit of cooperation. Any attempt aimed at turning the space and space technology into a monopoly of few countries is incompatible with the nature of this common heritage. The Islamic Republic of Iran, being under discriminatory restriction and faced with the possibility of rupturing the commercial space transporting services that could prevent sending its own satellite into space, was forced to seek self-sufficiency and developed its indigenous space technology by her young scientists and has launched its Omid (hope) Satellite into space as a first step. We have a long-term plan to explore and utilize space for peaceful purposes. We continue to believe that given the required level of technology and high costs of such technology, international cooperation is an imperative in exploration of outer space. Monopolization of outer space is not an option nor achievable.

We also attach high importance to the question of Prevention of an Arms Race in the Outer Space. We are concerned over the negative implications of certain projects under the pretext of defense systems as well as the pursuit of advanced military technology capable of being deployed in outer space and weaponization of space which has contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the promotion of disarmament and strengthening of international security. We share the view that the prevention of an arms race in outer space has assumed greater urgency because of legitimate concerns that existing legal instruments are inadequate to deter an arms race in the outer space. There is an attempt to seek military and strategic superiority in outer space which only leads to the weaponization of outer space in the future endangering global peace and security. Therefore, negotiating a legally binding instrument on prevention of an arms race in outer space is an urgent task for the Conference on Disarmament.