Statement by the DPRK Delegation
Subject: “Outer space (Disarmament aspect)”
At the First Committee 66th Session of UNGA

Mr. Chair,

Outer space is a common property of the humankind, and its peaceful exploration and use is directly interlinked with the global peace and security together with the sustainable development.

But it is regrettable to mention that negative attempts by specific states for space militarization have been emerging as serious challenges threatening the peace and security of the world.

The delegation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) as one of the 9 countries in the world with the capacity of self manufacturing and launching the Satellites avails itself of this opportunity to express its view on the challenges in outer space.

Mr. Chair,

It is true that today, outer space is misused by certain specific countries for their strategic purposes and a huge amount of financial resources are invested to this end. One of the clear examples is the US Missile Defence System (MDS) now in full swing.

In 2002, the US unilaterally withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) in order to escape from legal constraint on the MDS, and is now pushing ahead with the projects.

On the other hand in 2008 Japan abrogated its domestic law on the prevention of space militarization, that has been existed over 40 years, and
newly adopted a Basic Law on Space, paving the way for space militarization and actively collaborating with the US in developing the MDS.

The MDS is aimed to secure power supremacy by means of outer space, thus inciting another arms race there in the space. This situation necessitates the establishment of a new and multilateral legal system more effective for preventing the space militarization as a matter of urgency.

In this context, the DPRK delegation welcomes and supports the draft Treaty for Prevention of Placement of Arms in the Outer Space presented jointly by China and Russia at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament in 2008 and call the 1st committee to direct its due attention to the negative elements that can give rise to a new arms race in outer space and double its efforts to ban the militarization of the space at early date.

The DPRK as a State Party to the Outer Space Treaty will continue to participate actively in the peaceful exploration of outer space and extend full cooperation to international initiatives for preventing the space militarization.

Thank you.