Mr. Chairman,

1. Since the first launch of space object in 1957, the exploration and use of outer space has driven technological innovation in numerous fields-such as medicine, agriculture, aviation and energy, with scientific and practical applications relevant to social and economic objectives, including sustainable development. States have sought to capture the benefits of space exploration and develop their capabilities in a manner consistent with international peace and security. It goes without saying that the peaceful use of outer space is the foundation and norm of all modern-day outer space activities.

2. The Republic of Korea, as State Party to all major conventions on outer space, carries out all of its outer space activities in a peaceful, transparent and safe manner in accordance with the relevant international norms. In line with its adherence to these commitments, last June, the Republic of Korea assumed the 2012-2013 chairmanship of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, to which more than 130 countries have subscribed. As the chair of the Hague Code of Conduct, we are working together with other countries in order to promote transparency and confidence with regard to space launches.

3. The Republic of Korea believes that the full implementation and universalization of the existing international regime and the strengthening of transparency and confidence-building measures is essential to further promote the peaceful use of outer space. In this regard, my delegation is confident in the role that UNCOPUOS has played in facilitating international cooperation for using outer space for peaceful purposes, and appreciates its invaluable contribution to our common endeavors thus far.
4. Furthermore, in this context, the Republic of Korea welcomes international efforts to complement the current regime on outer space. In particular, the ROK supports the efforts of the international community to develop an 'International Code of Conduct on Outer Space Activities'. We believe that the Code of Conduct will be universal, pragmatic and flexible with a view to ensuring greater safety in outer space for all States through strengthening transparency and confidence-building measures. Also, the Republic of Korea highly values the launch of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures (TCBMs) in Outer Space Activities and its work conducted during its first session in July 2012. My delegation firmly believes that the GGE will demonstrate tangible progress in developing space TCBMs.

5. Lastly, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of close cooperation and enhanced dialogue among such fora as the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the First and Fourth Committees of the United Nations, and the International Telecommunications Union. Given the discussions already taking place in various international arenas, we will be able to realize maximum synergies with relevant international fora by sharing their respective expertise and experience.

6. Along these lines, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its strong commitment to the sustainable, long-term use of space for the benefit of all humankind. We remain committed to international cooperation based on a shared appreciation of the value and promise of peaceful uses of outer space for current and future generations.

Thank you.       /END/