Mr. Chairman,

As space applications are essential to modern life-style, Egypt firmly believes in the importance of maintaining outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes. Every effort should be exerted to avoid turning outer space to yet another field of conflict. Given the history of warfare and conflict, it is self evident that the only way to keep outer space as a peaceful zone is to guarantee that no weapons are ever deployed there, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space (PAROS).

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt’s position on PAROS rests on the following benchmarks:

First: Outer space is the common heritage of humankind. No space-faring country should try to restrict or curtail the full access and utilization of other countries to outer space. As any threat to the peaceful utilization of outer space is a collective threat. The responsibility to keep peaceful uses of outer space accessible to all humanity is a shared responsibility that requires a multilateral framework.

Second: Any unilateral declarations, bilateral agreements and/or like-minded group's common positions should only contribute in building confidence. They do not nullify the need for a multilateral legally-binding agreement on the prevention of arms race in outer space. Such an agreement should be concluded with the participation, and taking into consideration, the interest of all countries with equal privileges and obligations and not be tailor-made for current users of space.

Third: It is clear that a legal body governing PAROS is missing. While the work of the Group on Government Experts TCBMs is recognized, it is important to stress that TCBMs can only be a complement to legally binding multilateral treaties prohibiting not only the placement of any kind of weapon in outer space or celestial bodies, but also forbidding any earth or space based weapons that targets satellites (ASATs).
**Fourth:** Military applications in outer space – for example military applications including those for communication and navigation—should not be used to legitimate or facilitate the ‘weaponization’ of outer space. The real threat to the common peaceful utilization of outer space stems from placing weapons in outer space as well as targeting satellites.

**Finally:** Any treaty on PAROS should be universal, verifiable, equitable and have the same obligations and benefits for all member states that are Parties to the treaty. There are numerous studies and proposals that have shown that a verification regime can be constructed related to PAROS. These studies answer the pretexts that some have presented for the infeasibility of launching negotiations on PAROS. They prove that what is lacking is the political will, and not the technical aspects. Mr. Chairman,

We continue to hold that the CD is the place to negotiate a treaty on PAROS. The time has always been ripe to start negotiations there. We recognize the initiative presented by China and the Russian Federation on submitting a document on elements of a treaty, the PPWT, which can serve as a base to commence negotiations and build on this pressing issue.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Every year, Egypt and Sri Lanka alternate in presenting a resolution on PAROS to the first Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. We fully endorse Sri Lanka’s efforts this year. The resolution receives near unanimity every year, with only two countries abstaining. We call on all countries to continue their support, and on the remaining two countries to join the overwhelming majority in voting for this resolution.

We note with interest the new proposals which were circulated informally regarding ‘no first placement of weapons in outer space’. We intend to examine them with much attention, as part of the continuous dialogue to further the objective of prevention of an arms race in outer space, spearheaded by the yearly resolution presented on PAROS to the First Committee.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman.**