Statement by Minister Counsellor Ye Gyaw Mra, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations on Outer Space (Disarmament Aspect), Thematic Discussion of the First Committee, 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly
New York – 18 October 2016

1. Thank you Mr. Chair. I am pleased to have the opportunity to address at this Committee on outer space in the disarmament aspects.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Singapore on behalf of ASEAN, and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chair,

3. I would like to reiterate that Myanmar recognizes outer space as a common heritage of mankind. Therefore, outer space activities must be utilized solely for peaceful purposes and for the interests of all mankind.

4. Every year, when we discuss this matter, many expressed concerns about the grave consequences that would arise from an arms race in outer space. We understand the growing interests by States to explore outer space for various reasons since space technology is undergoing rapid transformation. It is in the nature of human beings that we have strong desire to explore and learn. It was that curiosity that had led mankind to land on the moon and to explore the universe. However, if outer space becomes militarized due to increasing interests it would not only threaten the security of many States but also undermine the current disarmament initiatives.
5. We are of the view that States with major space-related activities, expertise and capabilities bear the primary responsibility to realize the objective of peaceful uses as well as the prevention of arms race in outer space. Enhancing transparency and confidence-building measures will help prevent militarization in outer space. Therefore, TCBMs in all aspects are vigorously encouraged.

6. My delegation continues to uphold its trust and confidence in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament. We also share the view that Conference on Disarmament should assume the primary role in negotiating an agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

7. Myanmar has supported the two space-related resolutions, namely, “Prevention of arms race in outer space” and “No first placement of weapons in outer space” at the United Nations. We will continue to support these two important resolutions when the First Committee takes action on them in the coming days.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

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