

To Jennifer
From Alice

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

L.10, Rev. 1 "Prevention of an arms race in outer space"

L.36 "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities"

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Our Delegation takes the floor to explain its votes on draft resolutions L.10, Rev 1, "Prevention of an arms race in outer space," and L. 36, " Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities."

Madam Chair, there is no arms race in space, and no prospect of an arms race in space. Thus, there is no arms control problem for the international community to address. There already exists an extensive and comprehensive system for limiting certain uses of outer space. The existing multilateral outer space arms control regime already deals adequately with the non-weaponization of space.

As stated in our National Space Policy, the United States is committed to the peaceful exploration and use of space by all nations for peaceful purposes. Peaceful purposes can include

appropriate defense activities in pursuit of national security and other goals. We take seriously our commitment to carry on all U.S. activities in the exploration and use of outer space in accordance with international law, including the Outer Space Treaty and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding.

The United States already has a number of efforts under way to help safeguard and improve peaceful uses of outer space for all, including providing information on objects in space through a public domain website. We have led the way in negotiating guidelines for mitigating the dangers to space operations presented by orbital debris. We also have extended assistance to other space-faring nations by offering help in collision-avoidance.

In short, Madam Chair, we see no reason for international institutions to address a non-existent arms race in outer space.

Thank you, Madam Chair.