Mr. President

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency of the CD and thank you for the manner that you are presiding over this body. I would like to assure you the full cooperation of my delegation in discharging your important tasks as the President of the CD.

The outer space is a common heritage of mankind and must be used, explored and utilized for peaceful purposes and for the benefit and interest of all mankind in a spirit of cooperation. The UN millennium Development Goals re-emphasize and provide a useful approach to space development for the next generation. Thus we should provide the ground for the next generation to fully incorporate the use of space to ensure that the Millennium Goals are met, especially in developing countries. All the efforts should be made in order to secure the use of outer space solely for the purposes of the wellbeing and prosperity of all nations around the world.

The role of space technology in our daily life is pretty clear. This indispensable role is ever increasing and the outer space is essential to everyday life. It has many applications in the field of telecommunications, banking, agricultural planning, natural resource, protection and early warning of extreme environmental events and the extent of global warming.

All states have an inalienable right to access outer space for research and peaceful use based on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. Therefore, it is natural that space security should be our common goal. The more we depend on space, the more we need space security. Therefore it is more urgent than ever before that space remain a peaceful domain.
We ask all countries to respect the outer space as global heritage of all mankind by making this environment safe and secure for all human beings. The serious threat for peaceful uses of the outer space is the development of Anti-Satellite Weapons and anti-ballistic missile systems. Technologies developed for missile defences have many potential threat applications to space-based assets. Seeking dominance of space is a misapprehended self-defeating route to space security. It took several decades of Cold War arms race for the nuclear Powers to realize that a nuclear war could never be won. We should not replicate the past in regard to the space. For strategic and military dominance in space, a state would need to develop a complicated space weapons programme. This would include planning for space war and therefore would arouse an arms race. Weaponization of the space will not therefore bring the security even for the country concerned. The weaponization of space will trigger unforeseeable results, similar to those at the beginning of the nuclear era. Weapons deployment in outer space by one state will unavoidably ignite a chain reaction and risk an escalation arms race both in space and on Earth.

The Islamic Republic of Iran as a space-faring nation has consistently supported the prevention of an arms race in outer space and is of the strong view that every effort should be made to keep the outer space out of any weaponization or any arms race. I see merits in the view that a coherent and coordinated approach between the CD, General Assembly and COPOUS is required with regards to the peaceful use of the outer space.

Although the PAROUS is one of the CD’s four core agenda issues and has been included in all proposals since 1982 for the CD’s programme of work and there has been a growing demand in the international community to see concrete measures taken to strengthen space security, unfortunately since 1995 the CD had been unable to start its negotiation on a legally binding
instrument for the PAROUS under its agenda item. We believe CD should remain the primary forum for political, legal, technical and institutional negotiation and for constructing any new legal instruments on the PAROUS issue.

The growing number and diversity of actors in the space as well as the rapid technologies, necessitate the protection of operating environment particularly with respect to preventing space debris to mitigate the risk of collision. Space debris is an indiscriminate threat for all space-faring nations and all space users. It is noteworthy that the international guidelines agreed by COPOUS are only a confidence building voluntary measures and would not create a legally binding obligations.

In our point of view the current legal framework on this issue at hand is not sufficient to deal with all the security matters related to the outer space. There is a need for legally binding arrangements to keep the outer space out of any Weaponization and arms race. The draft Treaty of PPWT presented to the Conference by Russia and China in 2008 is a positive step which deserves further consideration and provides a good basis for further discussions and possibly leads to eventual PAROUS negotiations. We support the start of negotiation of the CD on conclusion of a legally binding Treaty to fully ban the possibility of arm race in outer space. I Thank you Mr. President