



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

**Thematic debate on prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS)
30 March 2023**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to begin by thanking you for organizing this thematic debate on an important agenda item of the Conference on Disarmament.

We continue to support for your endeavour to move forward the substantive discussions under this genuine forum, despite the failure of the Conference to adopt a decision on Programme of Work.

Madam President,

The international community is seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space.

I would like to reiterate that Türkiye gives utmost importance to protecting the right to unrestricted access to outer space as well as the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The successful work of the Subsidiary Group on PAROS last year was a positive development in the activities of the CD.

As a co-sponsor of the UN General Assembly Resolution 76/231, we continue to support the activities of the Open-Ended Working Group on “Reducing Space Threats through Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible Behaviour”.

We hope that the said Group will achieve a substantive consensus report on its findings and recommendations in the upcoming final session in August and September.

We believe that its discussions and report could also be instrumental in facilitating future negotiations on PAROS at the CD.

The synergy between the relevant UN institutions, mechanisms and processes on this topic should continue to be strengthened.

Madam President,

With this opportunity, we would like to share our position on some of the key elements of our discussions related to PAROS.

1. Outer space is the common heritage of humanity and the driver of socio-economic development for the benefit of all people. We believe that the security of outer space directly correlates with our collective goal of sustainable development.
2. The existing international legal regime provides a sound basis for space activities. Space activities must be carried out in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant applicable international law to maintain international peace and security and promote cooperation.
3. It is also essential to abide by the Outer Space Treaty and other relevant treaties and refrain from solely pursuing national interests.
4. We believe that principles for responsible behavior in space are an integral part of PAROS. Such principles contribute to enhancing the security of space activities, prevent misunderstandings, misperceptions, and miscalculations and reduce the risk of unintended escalation.
5. Rendezvous (docking) operations to space objects of other States should not be conducted without their consent. Proximity operations that impair the safe operation of space systems of another State should also be avoided.
6. As one of the co-sponsors of the UN General Assembly Resolution 77/41 on “Destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing”, we welcome and continue to support the initiative.
7. Transparency and confidence-building measures such as information exchange, sharing of best practices, risk reduction notifications, a common mechanism for de-confliction, publishing space security strategies, policies, doctrines, and expenditures are also useful instruments.

8. Emerging threats, such as increasing the number of debris in orbit, congestion caused by the entrance of new actors, cyber-attacks including those of non-state actors and new types of weapons such as directed energy, electronic and anti-satellite weapons, should be given due attention as well.

I would like to conclude by thanking you, Madam President, and reiterating our support for substantive work of the CD, including on PAROS, in an active and constructive manner.

Thank you.