

**80<sup>th</sup> UNGA First Committee**  
**Explanation of Vote by Pakistan on Decision L.35**

**Thank you Mr. Chair,**

Pakistan abstained on the decision contained in document **L.35**, titled “**Reducing Space Threats through Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible Behaviours**”.

Pakistan has consistently advocated for advancing negotiations on a legally binding instrument on PAROS as a matter of urgency. Concurrently, we have actively contributed to discussions on non-legally binding measures such as Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures (TCBMs). We recognize the complementary relationship between the two approaches. Historically, non-legally binding measures have contributed to the development of legally binding instruments and hold the potential to do so in the future. We appreciate that the main sponsor of L.35 has acknowledged this complementarity.

However, this initiative continues to advance an exclusive focus on behaviours while ignoring the capabilities. We believe that we need a more holistic approach to address not only the dual-use problem but also the capabilities being designed, developed and deployed for the explicit purposes of warfighting in outer space.

Therefore, a comprehensive approach that includes a dual focus on both capabilities and behaviours offers the best pathway for progress, as has been the case in several legally-binding and non-legally binding measures developed in other fields of disarmament.

Furthermore, the concept of “responsible” and “irresponsible” behaviour could also be subject to politicization if addressed without verifiable criteria and in isolation in a piecemeal manner.

A holistic approach to space security is our best hope to prevent an arms race and to safeguard outer space for future generations, ensuring that it remains a domain free from conflict.

**Thank you Mr. Chair.**

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