



**Statement by Mr. Chatura Perera, Minister of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations: First Committee – Cluster 3 – Outer space (disarmament aspects)
80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly: 23 October 2025**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Allow me now to make a statement in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

For Sri Lanka, as for all nations, space is not a frontier of exploration, but a domain of our shared aspirations: to advance knowledge, to cooperate in peace, and to ensure that progress benefits all humankind. It is in this spirit that Sri Lanka has long recognized outer space as the common heritage of humanity, to be preserved, protected, and used for exclusively peaceful purposes.

We are deeply worried about any attempt to change outer space into a “war fighting domain” or the “next battlefield.”

Mr. Chair,

Sri Lanka highlights the cardinal importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, and with the legal regime that governs its use. We strongly support the early commencement of substantive negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a legally binding, verifiable instrument to PAROS.

To this end, we continue to attach importance to the draft treaty - PPWT presented by the Russian Federation and China, as well as the consensual adoption last August of the report of the GGE established under resolution 77/250.

Such multilateral initiatives provide a solid basis and an important opportunity to advance towards a comprehensive, binding framework that would keep outer space peaceful for future generations.

We also note with appreciation the adoption of several GA resolutions, which reaffirm the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space, including through the principle of “no first placement” of weapons. However, these resolutions must never be viewed as a substitute for a binding international instrument on PAROS.

Mr. Chair,

Outer space should be free for exploration and use by all States, without discrimination, on a basis of equality, and in accordance with international law. This principle is not only enshrined in space treaties but is also central to our collective sustainable development.

Sri Lanka, therefore, stresses the need for international cooperation in advancing peaceful applications of space technologies. For island developing states like Sri Lanka, such technologies are crucial tools that enhance resilience, support livelihoods, and safeguard communities against natural hazards.

Mr. Chair,

As the main sponsor of the resolution on the PAROS, tabled with Egypt, Sri Lanka reaffirms its readiness to work with all partners in advancing this collective goal.

The prevention of the weaponization of outer space is a moral imperative—one that determines whether the skies far above remain a realm of hope, discovery, and cooperation, or are instead transformed into another theater of fierce rivalry and conflict.

Thank you.