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**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**DRAFT STATEMENT**

**FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DEBATE ON:  
OUTERSPACE**

***24 October 2025***  
***CR4***  
***UNHQ***

Chair,

Seven decades after the launch of *Sputnik 1* heralded the dawn of the space era, humanity's newest frontier has become congested, contested, and remains largely ungoverned.

Private and public actors alike are transferring their rivalries to orbit, leaving behind debris, dual-use uncertainty, and the growing risk of cascading collisions. A single act of negligence — or aggression — could trigger a chain reaction of debris and collisions from which recovery might take centuries.

We must prevent a tragedy of the commons in orbit before overuse, debris, and distrust make this shared domain unusable for future generations.

Chair,

While the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 remains the cornerstone of international space law, its principles — *peaceful use, non-appropriation, and benefit to all humankind* — are under increasing strain.

Existing frameworks are no longer sufficient to prevent crowding, collisions, or confrontation. Binding instruments, negotiated under the auspices of the Conference on Disarmament, are urgently needed to prevent the weaponization of space.

Mozambique encourages the Open-Ended Working Group on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space

(PAROS) to continue advancing this agenda with ambition, inclusion, and renewed commitment to consensus.

Mozambique joins the African Group in reaffirming that outer space is the common heritage of humankind and must never become another domain of conflict.

Our continent, too, has an interest in space — not as a bystander, but as a stakeholder — guided by the African Space Policy and Strategy, the African Outer Space Agency, and Agenda 2063's vision of innovation, inclusion, and the peaceful use of science.

Mozambique also commends the work of UNIDIR, including its interactive Lexicon for Outer Space Security and real-time risk dashboards — innovative tools that bridge the gap between law, technology, and transparency.

Such instruments can help all States — especially developing ones — to navigate the complexity of orbital behavior, enhance situational awareness, and build confidence across regions.

Our shared challenge is not only to prevent an arms race in space, but also to prevent inequality in access — ensuring that all nations, regardless of size or income, can participate meaningfully in the peaceful exploration of space.

I thank you