



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*



PORTUGAL
United Nations Security Council
2027/2028

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**United Nations General Assembly
80th session**

**First Committee (disarmament and international security)
Cluster 3 (outer space)**

New York, 24 October 2025

Statement by Portugal

Delivered by Mr. Miguel Alegre,
Political Officer (Disarmament), Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN in New York

Chair,

Portugal aligns with the statement of the European Union and wishes to make a few remarks in its national capacity.

As an area beyond national jurisdiction, outer space is increasingly recognized as a global commons.

The international community must therefore preserve the use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes.

A safe and secure outer space is one where there is trust among space actors, one where space is democratized for the benefit of global societies and economies, which may reap the scientific and commercial advantages arising from free and sustainable space exploration in full respect of international law.

As such, outer space cannot and must not be weaponized. In particular, States must uphold the prohibition of placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit.

However, recent years have witnessed the occurrence of ASAT tests and the development of dual-use space technologies as well as of space launchers which share many similarities to ballistic missiles. These developments risk increasing misperceptions, mistrust and miscalculations.



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Chair,

Disarmament efforts related to outer space should focus on the PAROS agenda, which is vital to bolstering international security and stability.

Part of these efforts should be on upholding space law, as enshrined primarily in the Outer Space Treaty but also in the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention, the Registration Convention and the Moon Agreement.

Relatedly, further work should be carried out to implement the commitments contained in the Hague Code of Conduct and other norms of responsible behavior, such as the commitment not to conduct direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests.

Portugal looks forward to further progress in the work which is being carried out by the open-ended working group on PAROS. It is essential that all voices and all perspectives are heard and given due consideration. PAROS should not be seen as binary – legally binding instrument vs. responsible behaviors – but holistically, combining elements of both approaches as appropriate.

Chair,

In 2019, Portugal launched its own space agency.

This year, and building on the Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space adopted in 2024, we cooperated with UNOOSA and UNITAR to establish a UN-Portugal Outer Space Fellowship.

The first edition took place last July, in Lisbon, and provided essential training to participants from SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs on international space law.

We believe that such initiatives which build synergies between knowledge-sharing, development cooperation and disarmament efforts are the way to build the necessary trust between actors and promote respect for international law.

Chair,

To conclude, let our discussions increase our resolve to prevent an arms race in outer space.

But may our discussions not be confined to this First Committee, and let us develop a truly inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach which fully includes commercial actors and civil society representatives to address these space threats.



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I thank you.

[458 words]