

Statement by the United States
Thematic Discussion on Outer Space
UNGA First Committee
October 24, 2025
To Be Delivered

Thank you, Chair,

Outer space provides significant opportunities for all of us. Satellite services enable additional connectivity and secure communications channels, supporting our shared prosperity and security. All nations share an interest in advancing these benefits in outer space. Despite this reality, certain states are developing and deploying destructive weapons systems designed to degrade these very benefits, placing at risk global prosperity and security. To address these risks, we must move beyond the narrow focus in the UN on legally-binding measures on the prevention of the placement of weapons in space

The United States acknowledges the existing Outer Space Treaty as a framework for the exploration and use of space. For nearly six decades, all nations adhering to this framework have sought to ensure benefits from outer space. In that regard, we call on all countries to comply with their Outer Space Treaty obligations, particularly the prohibition on the placement of nuclear weapons in orbit.

The United States believes that we must develop non-binding measures that can support efforts to avoid jeopardizing the viability and security of outer space. We should focus on initiatives that advance and implement best practices for space operations, providing practical and realistic methods to mitigate the risks of miscalculation and misperception -- without constraining innovation and freedom to operate in outer space.

Chair,

We must ensure that our discussions maintain a focus on these practical and realistic steps that all states should take to reduce the risks in, to, and from outer space.

In contrast, the proposals contained in some annual resolutions supporting legally binding instruments – including L.38 on “Further Practical Measures” and L.37 on “No First Placement” – are unverifiable, hypocritical, and must be rejected. States must develop common understandings of the relevant threats to space security and viability.

Thank you, Chair.