

Republic of Korea

National Contribution to the United Nations Secretary-General

Pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 77/251

"Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities"

" 11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views and proposals of Member States about the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities of 2013, and to submit a substantive report, with an annex containing those views, to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, for further discussion by Member States"

Introduction

The Republic of Korea is committed to fully respecting the existing international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the 1967 Treaty on the Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space. The ROK recognizes the invaluable role the existing international law plays in consolidating a legal regime that fosters peaceful uses of outer space and strengthens international cooperation in outer space activities.

The ROK firmly believes that transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs), as well as commitments and voluntary guidelines on activities in outer space, including those adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, can complement the existing legal framework. TCBMs can help States to create mutual understanding and trust and enhance predictability in the outer space environment, thus reducing miscalculations and misperceptions. TCBMs play a fundamental role in ensuring that outer space is maintained for peaceful purposes.

Suggestion on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures

In this vein, the Republic of Korea welcomes the 2013 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities. The ROK supports its recommendations and especially notes the importance of information-exchange measures aimed at expanding the availability of information on objects in outer space and their general function.

In its efforts to promote information exchange on space policies and activities, the ROK has actively advocated two initiatives: the space security policy portal and the pre-activity

notification mechanism. The ROK supported the launch of the UNIDIR space security policy portal and submitted its national contribution. The ROK's national contribution encompasses its doctrine and policy, national structure, legal materials, international engagement and other governance materials on outer space. The ROK strongly believes that the broad and continued participation of States and organizations will enable the aforementioned portal to serve as a practical and efficient platform for information sharing. Furthermore, this portal can also empower coordination and promote transparency among national organizations and authorities.

Along with the policy platform, the ROK also proposes that the international community considers developing a voluntary pre-activity notification mechanism as another realistic and practical transparency-building measure. Possible details of such a mechanism include:

- Communicating in advance or immediately informing of any planned, scheduled or predicted activities
Note. Activities subject to this mechanism can include the launch of space vehicles and other ambiguous activities that may result in a risk to the safety of the space objects of other States.
- Designating a Point of Contact to facilitate the notification process
Note. States may consider using an existing mechanism or agree upon a new mechanism to facilitate information sharing, such as a dedicated website.
- Providing an annual report containing more information, including but not limited to the registration of space objects and newly introduced laws and policies in relation to outer space.

Responsible Behaviour Approach: Towards Increased TCBMs

The ROK has been actively participating in international efforts to consider and implement the GGE's TCBMs, centering on behaviour. Rather than focusing on capability, the behaviour approach enables a holistic approach to defining and responding to various threats in an ever-changing outer space environment. Though recent discussions on the behaviour approach focus on TCBMs, norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours can be a basis for legally binding and effectively verifiable space security treaties.

In this regard, the ROK strongly supports the development of norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours and the relevant fora, including the Open-ended Working Group, the Disarmament Commission and the joint First Committee and Fourth Committee. The ROK will continue to actively participate in the relevant discussion to reach a common understanding to the greatest extent practicable. The ROK's commitment not to conduct destructive, direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests in 2022 and sponsorship of the relevant resolution in the United Nations are examples of such efforts.

The ROK stands ready to contribute to the further development of norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, as well as further development and implementation of TCBMs to ensure a safe, secure and sustainable environment.

Conclusion

The ROK reaffirms its commitment to the existing international law, as well as the TCBMs and the norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour. The ROK believes these voluntary measures can either complement or contribute to implementing, clarifying and interpreting the existing law. This will prevent miscommunication, misunderstanding and miscalculation and reduce space threats.

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