

**Third Substantive Session of the United Nations General Assembly Open-Ended
Working Group on Reducing Space Threats Through Rules, Norms, and Principles of
Responsible Behavior**
30 January-3 February 2023

Statement by ASEAN Member States

*Delivered by Mr. Indra Rosandry, Minister-Counsellor,
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations Office
and other international organizations in Geneva*

Mister Chair:

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Negara Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
2. At the outset, we take this opportunity to express our unwavering support for your leadership in navigating our work. ASEAN also wishes to thank you for the Chair's summary of the previous OEWG Session that you have prepared and circulated well in advance of this OEWG session.

Mister Chair:

3. ASEAN remains seriously concern over threats to international peace and security by the possible weaponization of outer space or turning outer space into a domain for warfare and armed conflicts.
4. As stated by our Foreign Ministers in their Joint Communique last year, ASEAN therefore attaches importance to ongoing multilateral discussions on emerging international peace and security issues, including outer space. We reiterated our views that access to outer space is an alienable right of all States and that the use of outer space should be exclusively for peaceful purposes only, and for the collective benefit of humanity.
5. With increased access to outer space comes greater responsibilities for the entire U.N. membership, underscoring the need for shared understanding and the acceptance of norms developed through multilateral engagement. ASEAN therefore welcomed the establishment of this OEWG and took note of the exchange of views it has facilitated on current and future threats by states to space systems and actions, activities, and omissions that could be considered irresponsible.
6. Throughout this OEWG process, ASEAN notes that many delegations and institutions have submitted various working papers and documents to the OEWG, including ASEAN's written submission, the working paper on the "duty of due regard" submitted by the Philippines, as well as the new working paper submitted by the Philippines and

Germany. We believe that these submissions, as well as the substantive discussions we have undertaken so far, reflect the commitment of delegations to this process.

7. At this third session, ASEAN looks forward to continuing our discussions to flesh out understandings on the principles governing the conduct of space activities based on foundational principles of international space law, including those set out in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, such as equality among all States, spacefaring or otherwise; the non-appropriation of outer space; the applicability of international law in outer space; no-placement of weapons of mass destruction; State responsibility and liability; the State of registry; the duty of due regard; and international cooperation.

Mister Chair:

8. ASEAN maintain our calls for continued action in mitigating the effects of space debris through relevant multilateral fora, and we stand ready to engage with all parties in moving this agenda forward. We urge all Member States to respect and ensure the full implementation of all related U.N. instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions.
9. Beyond these discussions on rules, norms and principles, however, ASEAN remains convinced that there is an urgent need for the commencement of substantive negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a legally binding and multilaterally verifiable instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), including the prohibition of the placement of weapons in outer space and the prohibition of the threat or use of force against outer space objects.
10. Activities in outer space should not remain the exclusive preserve of a small group of States. Therefore, ASEAN encourages the strengthening of capacity-building programs, with particular emphasis on developing countries, to ensure that outer space is, both in principle and in practice, a common heritage of mankind which all States can avail themselves of.
11. Finally, ASEAN reaffirms the need for a universal, comprehensive, and nondiscriminatory multilateral approach towards the issue of missiles in all its aspects, negotiated multilaterally within the U.N. Any initiatives on this subject should take into account the security concern of all states and their inherent right to peaceful uses of space technologies.

Thank you, Mister Chair.