

Fourth session of the

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REDUCING SPACE THREATS THROUGH
NORMS, RULES AND PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOURS

**Statement of Hungary delivered by H.E. Margit Szűcs, Permanent Representative of
Hungary to the UN and WTO**

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Since this is the first time that Hungary takes the floor, the Hungarian delegation would like to congratulate you for presiding over this session of the Open-Ended Working Group. I am confident that with your leadership, we will have a very successful session and I want to confirm the full support of the Hungarian delegation to your endeavours and our common goals.

While fully align with the statement of the European Union, Hungary would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

Hungary firmly believes that the OEWG's valuable work established by Resolution 76/231 on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours is just the beginning of an expanding dialogue on a safe and secure outer space. We remain supportive of such efforts.

In light of the rapid evolution of technology and the related space economy, it is imperative to enhance the dialogue among Member States. Space is accessible to practically all states, and now also to a growing number of non-state actors.

Meanwhile, the freedom of our action, our security, our economies, the daily running of our societies depend on the safe, secure and autonomous access to space. Our dependence on space systems and services is increasing; we are more vulnerable to irresponsible and threatening behaviour. Certain actions have made outer space to become a contested domain. In this "*New Space age*" transparent space activities are of strategic importance.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Hungary, together with its EU partners and NATO Allies strongly advocates for responsible behaviour in outer space. Strengthening the safety, security, sustainability and peaceful nature of outer space activities remains a key priority, and it is in the common interest of present and future generations. Therefore, we join our voice in calling for a comprehensive approach in addressing the challenges, risks and threats to the peaceful use of outer space, in compliance with international law. This notion is a basic principle of the Hungarian national space strategy.

Hungary has never conducted space activities threatening the operation of other space assets, or harming the interests of other states in outer space. In light of the 75 years of Hungarian space heritage and to further our commitment in the peaceful, transparent, and responsible use of outer space, **Hungary is committed not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests.**

I wish everyone an interesting and fruitful session. Thank you Mr. Chair.