

**NIGERIA'S STATEMENT AT THE MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING
GROUP OF REDUCING SPACE THREATS THROUGH NORMS, RULES AND
PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIORS IN OUTER SPACE**

Thank you for giving Nigeria the floor,

At the outset, my delegation commends you, Ambassador Lagos of Chile, on the skillful manner you have so far steered the work of this Open Ended Working Group. As we continue to rely on your leadership to advance this process towards concrete outcomes, in line with the aspirations of RESOLUTION 76/231, you can rest assured of the support of my delegation.

Chairperson,

Nigeria's unwavering commitment to strongly uphold the principle of equality and equity in the context of space-related activities, is hinged on the overarching need to ensure that such activities are carried out for peaceful uses that benefit the human race. However, in a world of emerging technologies, including the development of sophisticated weaponized capabilities, Nigeria strongly upholds that, the development of space systems for other forms of uses, must be in conformity with guiding principles within the context of international laws.

Considering that previous session of this OEWG set out to identify the parameters for responsible behaviors, as well as possible drivers of arms race in outer space, my delegation wishes to underscore the need for this session of the OEWG to structure deliberations towards considering pragmatic and adoptable proposals to address the challenges associated with the peaceful operation of space systems and refrain from expending precious time on matters that could potentially derail us from our ultimate goal.

Chairperson,

The prevention of arms race in outer space (PAROS) has become an incontrovertible subject which this forum must take strident steps to address. On this note, it is pertinent to state that, proposed measures to promote responsible behaviors in outer space must seek to reduce risk of escalation, through prevention of misunderstandings, misperceptions and miscalculations in the space domain. In this context, my delegation wishes to highlight the need for transparency in the conduct of space-related activities, on the basis of emphasis given to the principle of confidence building measures. Furthermore, my delegation would like to strongly stress

that States without the capacity nor desire to develop weaponized space systems, deserve concrete non-usage assurances from States that have already begun developing such systems. Indeed, in a very strong and decisive manner, States that conduct space activities for peaceful purposes must be shielded from undue interference.

Chairperson,

As we begin our work in this session of the OEWG, my delegation wishes to reiterate that, only a substantive and universal legally binding instrument could serve as deterrence to irresponsible behaviors in outer space. In the absence of such an instrument, nonetheless, my delegation wishes to register support for the working paper submitted by the Republics of Germany and the Philippines. We view this document as a useful basis for negotiating a legally binding instrument to prevent an arms race in outer space. Consequently, as we advance in our deliberations, let us bear in mind that, the humanitarian consequences of arms race in outer space, as has been demonstrated on many occasions, could be hugely detrimental to the entire human race.

We therefore urge States to demonstrate the political will to facilitate the establishment of a legally binding instrument that ensures adherence to international law and international humanitarian law in the conduct of outer space activities.

Finally,

My delegation reiterates its support for the work of the OEWG and welcomes constructive dialogue in line with its mandate.

I thank you.