28 August – 1 September 2023

Concluding Joint Statement

Delivered by Mr. Jonelle John S. Domingo  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations in Geneva

Mister Chair,

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and my own country, the Philippines.

While we could not adopt a substantive report in accordance with the mandate of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Reducing Space Threats Through Norms, Rules, and Principles of Responsible Behavior, we nevertheless thank you and your team for the excellent, fair, and balanced manner with which you have led this process.

We welcome that thirty-four states delivered a Joint Statement in Support of the OEWG, which has now been submitted officially as a working paper.

We reiterate our appreciation for the OEWG process, which has inspired open, substantive, interactive, and enlightening discussions pertaining to outer space security.

The OEWG has proven itself as a constructive platform for an inclusive dialogue among Member States with the participation of all relevant stakeholders on reducing space threats.

The sessions of the OEWG, including this week, have demonstrated a significant interest among states in finding converging views on reducing space threats through norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviors.
We continue to reaffirm that political commitments on responsible behaviors can be
developed in support of, and without prejudice to, the pursuit of legally binding measures
and instruments in this area. These two approaches are not mutually exclusive.

The work we have done in this OEWG is an excellent starting point that complements
other efforts related to enhancing outer space security, including the newly established
Group of Governmental Experts on Further Measures to Prevent an Arms Race in Outer
Space. A follow-up process to the ongoing OEWG, aimed at further convergence between
these tracks, would be useful.

The inclusive nature of this process, in terms of both participation of stakeholders and the
range of issues and measures that could be discussed, makes it an invaluable platform
that ensures that the voices of all member states and relevant stakeholders are heard on
an issue that affects us all.

Our delegations will continue to work on these matters constructively beyond this OEWG.

I thank you, Mister Chair.