

UN Open-Ended Working Group on Reducing Space Threats

Third session

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Statement by the Delegation of Brazil

Topic 9: International cooperation, including space surveillance and space situational awareness (SSA)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The theme of international cooperation is addressed at length in the Outer Space Treaty and associated instruments. Article IX of the OST, in particular, establishes that the exploration of Outer Space must be guided by the principle of cooperation and mutual assistance.

The GGE/TCBM goes further, by recognizing that international cooperation is a fundamental way for all states to have the possibility of enjoying the benefits of the peaceful exploration of Outer Space. In addition, paragraph 49 makes explicit the idea that cooperation, in particular between "spacefaring and non-spacefaring nations", can contribute to the creation of trust.

In its recommendations on the topic of international cooperation, the OEWG should take into account the terms of the 1997 Declaration on International Cooperation for the Exploration of Outer Space for the Benefit of All Interested States, Considering in Particular the Interest of Developing States (A/RES/51/122). In accordance with that declaration, international cooperation in the domain of outer space should have the following objectives: a) Promoting the development of space science and technology and of its applications; (b) Fostering the development of relevant and

appropriate space capabilities in interested States; (c) Facilitating the exchange of expertise and technology among States on a mutually acceptable basis.

In the area of space security, there is a need to further multilateral cooperation regarding the sharing of information on monitoring of space objects, in order to enable broad, credible and accessible space situational awareness (SSA).

For Brazil, the strengthening of SSA capabilities is essential to counter the perception that Outer Space is "congested". The main limitation to the use of Earth orbits is not necessarily the dimension of the space domain, but the ability to ensure the safety, reliability and long-term sustainability of space traffic management.

In addition to providing a clearer picture of the use of orbits and furthering safety of space operations, increased space situational awareness would serve the purpose of detecting abnormal and malicious behavior, identifying compromised satellites, issuing warnings about vulnerabilities, minimizing threats to critical services, and other security-related purposes. Furthermore, strengthening SSA can also serve as basis for attribution and verification for existing Outer Space legal framework and for future legally-binding instruments on PAROS.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.