



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 December 2024

Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 96 (b)

Prevention of an arms race in outer space: no first placement of weapons in outer space

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 2 December 2024

[on the report of the First Committee ([A/79/406](#), para. 20)]

79/20. No first placement of weapons in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [69/32](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/27](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/32](#) of 5 December 2016, [72/27](#) of 4 December 2017, [73/31](#) of 5 December 2018, [74/33](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/37](#) of 7 December 2020, [76/23](#) of 6 December 2021, [77/42](#) of 7 December 2022 and [78/21](#) of 4 December 2023, and its resolutions [45/55](#) B of 4 December 1990 and [48/74](#) B of 16 December 1993, which, inter alia, confirm the importance of transparency and confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing the common interest of all humankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space and of outer space turning into an arena for military confrontation, and bearing in mind the importance of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,¹

Conscious that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

Reaffirming that practical measures should be examined and taken in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space in a common effort towards a community of shared future for humankind,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with the existing legal regime providing for the peaceful use of outer space,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.



Reaffirming its recognition that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee prevention of an arms race in outer space and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime,

Convinced that such measures could critically improve conditions for efficiently addressing the threat of an arms race in outer space, including the placement of weapons in outer space,

Welcoming, in this regard, the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008,² and the submission of its updated version in 2014,³

Considering that transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities are an integral part of the draft treaty referred to above,

Welcoming the work of the Group of Governmental Experts established under resolution 77/250 of 30 December 2022, entitled “Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space”, which was tasked with considering and making recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, and emphasizing that the work of the Group has constituted an important contribution to international efforts to conclude the above-mentioned international legally binding instrument, as well as to outer space security and the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Welcoming also the substantive report⁴ adopted by consensus by the Group of Governmental Experts that could serve as a reference document for further measures and appropriate international negotiations on an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space,

Welcoming further the establishment for the period 2024–2028 of an open-ended working group, which is tasked with continuing to build on the work of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, as well as with considering various aspects of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the context of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Stressing the importance of the political statements made by a number of States⁵ that they would not be the first to place weapons in outer space,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space and the willingness of States to contribute to reaching this common goal;

2. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum on this subject,⁶ has the primary role in the negotiation of a

² See [CD/1839](#).

³ See [CD/1985](#).

⁴ [A/79/364](#).

⁵ Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

⁶ See resolution [S-10/2](#).

multilateral agreement, or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

3. *Urges* an early commencement of substantive work based on the updated draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, introduced by China and the Russian Federation at the Conference on Disarmament in 2008, under the agenda item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”;

4. *Stresses* that, while such an agreement is not yet concluded, other measures may contribute to ensuring that weapons are not placed in outer space;

5. *Supports* the efforts aimed at globalizing the international initiative not to be the first to place weapons of any kind in outer space;

6. *Encourages* all States, especially spacefaring nations, to consider the possibility of upholding, as appropriate, a political commitment not to be the first to place weapons in outer space;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”, the sub-item entitled “No first placement of weapons in outer space”.

*43rd plenary meeting
2 December 2024*