

**Statement by India on “Existing normative and legal framework applicable to prevention of an arms race in outer space” during the OEWG on PAROS in all its aspects  
July 24, 2025**

**Mr. Chair,**

Thank you.

I think, this morning in particular, and also yesterday, we were encouraged to listen to what is a very detailed discussion on various aspects of the topic at hand, which surely has a certain value in and of itself, at least from an educational standpoint, and that it sign-posts that our group has begun working in the right direction.

I will be very brief. On the topic of “Existing normative and Legal framework”, my delegation has the following points to present: -

1. India affirms the applicability of international law to outer space, including the UN Charter and relevant outer space and arms control treaties, to which we are party to.
2. India acknowledges that the goal of Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space was agreed to in the SSOD-1 final document, which stated that “further measures should be taken, and appropriate international negotiations be held in accordance with the spirit of Outer Space Treaty”.
3. India is of the view that the existing normative and legal framework on outer space contributes, although not fully, to the objectives of PAROS.
4. There are also shortcomings, which everyone acknowledges. These shortcomings have surfaced, particularly in light of new realities, including the fast-evolving nature of outer space capabilities and activities.
5. There are however deep disagreements about what these shortcomings are, how these shortcomings are to be tackled, and which part of the shortcoming needs to be addressed as a priority. This unfortunately has been and continues to remain a highly politicized discussion, that is often guised in legal language, but which has significant military and therefore arms control implications.
6. The international normative and legal framework, in our view, needs to be consolidated, strengthened, and where necessary, further augmented.
7. India believes that, as a preliminary step, priority should be accorded to developing uniform interpretations and understandings of the provisions of the existing legal treaties relating to outer space. Common understanding of terms such as ‘due regard’, ‘harmful interference’, ‘peaceful purposes’, among others, require to be developed in appropriate forums.

8. It is also our view that a substantial body of work has been done on enhancing outer space safety, security and sustainability in relevant forums. Mandates of various fora must be respected; overlaps and creation of multiples standards on the same set of issues should be avoided.
9. New actors have emerged. Dual-use space technology and assets are a reality. The relationship between the remits of regulation on one side, and what essentially is or would be an arms control process on the other, needs to be carefully examined.

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