

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ANUPAM RAY AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST AND FOURTH COMMITTEES, NEW YORK, OCTOBER 27, 2022

My delegation congratulates the co-chairs and thanks the co-chairs and panelists.

2. As a major space faring nation, India has made significant strides in developing advanced outer space applications and technologies, which provide a critical backbone for country's economic and social infrastructure.

3. India is opposed to the weaponisation of outer space and has consistently advocated preserving outer space as an ever-expanding frontier of cooperative endeavor, rather than conflict.

4. India supports the substantive consideration of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and we remain committed to a legally-binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which is comprehensive in scope, universally acceptable, verifiable and multilaterally negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament.

5. We share the concerns about the potential dangers arising from space debris to the safety and long-term sustainability of outer space. India has implemented several measures and practices, to the maximum extent possible and practicable, including the UN and IADC recommended guidelines for space debris mitigation, passivation of upper stages, Launch related COLLision Avoidance (COLA) assessments, Space Object Proximity Analyses (SOPA) for operational satellites, post mission disposal of GEO satellites to super-synchronous graveyard orbits, end-of-life de-orbiting of LEO satellites rocket stages, etc.

6. India considers Space Situational Awareness an integral and indispensable part of safe and sustainable national space operations. India has now established 'ISRO System for safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM)' and NETRA (Network for space object Tracking and Analysis) to enhance national space object monitoring capabilities and ensure that India's outer space activities are conducted in a safe and sustainable manner.

7. We feel that issues relating to space debris in general must be discussed and further developed in relevant fora such as UN COPUOS and IADC.

8. India continues to play an active role in the deliberations at COPUOS where it chairs the Working Group under the agenda item on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

9. India places high importance on international cooperation for promoting peaceful uses of outer space. We conduct an 8-week capacity building programme on nano satellite development - UNNATI (UNISpace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training by ISRO) as an UNISPACE+50 initiative. Two courses have been conducted in 2019 in which 60 officials from 33 nations have participated. A third course commenced on October 17, 2022 and has about 32 officials from 22 nations.

Thank you.

