Replies received from Governments

Brazil [Original: English] [13 February 2017]

As a developing country with a peaceful space programme, Brazil fully shares the view outlined in the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies that space activities must be carried out in conformity with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding.

The world we live in greatly depends on space-based resources. The use of force in outer space and its weaponization are incompatible with the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Therefore, States must translate into concrete action the recognition of the common interest of all mankind in the progress on the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The joint meeting of the First and Fourth Committees in 2015 provided an opportunity for a better understanding of the possible consequences of space weaponization and highlighted the importance of preserving peace and transparency in outer space in order to avoid confrontation.

Together with a growing number of countries, Brazil has been advocating the importance of a high-level commitment to a policy of no first placement of weapons in outer space. The broadest possible international adherence to this policy will greatly contribute to strengthening international peace and security. This confidence-building measure could be seen as an interim step towards a legally binding instrument that would promote the unimpeded peaceful use of outer space, while strengthening the security and predictability of outer space activities by preventing the placement of weapons in outer space.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should play a central role in promoting transparency and confidence in outer space activities, inasmuch as it has the mandate necessary to discuss issues relating to disarmament that may affect the sustainability of the space environment.

International cooperation is another important tool to increase the number of spacefaring nations, especially among developing countries. By establishing joint projects in outer space, States exchange information and share human and technological resources, thus contributing to preserve outer space as a peaceful environment.