Cuba supports General Assembly resolution 70/53 entitled “Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities”, which promotes the implementation of the measures, conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidencebuilding Measures in Outer Space Activities, considered by the Assembly on 5 December 2013.

Transparency and confidence-building measures are of great value as a contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security. Confidence-building is a step-by-step process that requires consensus among the participating States.

Global, regional, subregional and national efforts are relevant and necessary to increase transparency and build confidence among States in outer space activities. It is necessary to strengthen, improve and expand them because of their valuable contribution to the promotion of understanding, transparency and cooperation among States.

In this regard, we believe that further transparency and confidence-building measures should be examined in the search for multilateral agreements, to ensure the prevention of an arms race in outer space, through the following actions:

(a) An international conference to verify strict compliance with existing agreements on the peaceful uses of outer space.

(b) A review of the legal regime regulating this area in the light of the ongoing development of technology, in order to make it more effective.

(c) The adoption of multilateral agreements for the exchange of information relating to the use of outer space.

Because they are voluntary in nature, confidence-building measures cannot be imposed; nor are there any one-size-fits-all solutions. The success of such measures will depend to a large extent on achieving genuine consensus among the States participating in their implementation.

The adoption of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities which fully respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and agreements governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and which enjoy the consent and participation of the parties concerned, can help to avoid conflict and contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for international cooperation and the exchange of information to facilitate the legitimate right of all States to the use and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes.

At the same time, these measures cannot be an alternative to the need to strengthen the existing outer space legal regime. The existing legal regime should be consolidated and strengthened to prevent an arms race in outer space.
For this reason Cuba supports the urgent adoption of a treaty on the prevention and prohibition of the placement of weapons in outer space. An arms race in outer space would entail serious dangers for international peace and security. The weaponization of outer space is unacceptable.

Our country attaches great importance to the development of space science and its applications, particularly in the forecasting of disasters (cyclones, inland and coastal floods and forest fires) and studies of hazards, vulnerability, risk and other issues.

Cuba is interested in establishing regional and international programmes of cooperation in the area of disaster prevention. In this regard, cooperation and confidence-building can bolster an increase in joint programmes and the exchange of experiences.