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World expert community believes that the second decade of the XXI century may end with a high-tech breakthrough in Outer Space activities. In practical sense, even now one can hardly find any sphere of human activity not benefiting from Outer Space technologies.

We have long ago entered the era of a full-scale use of Outer Space for the benefit of universal social, economic, scientific and technological development. A growing number of countries is getting on board of Outer Space programs and seeking to acquire Outer Space property. And that is a good trend – all mankind should profit from progressive technology achievements.

Modern Outer Space technologies used for civil purposes provide new opportunities for rapid development of telecommunications, scientific research, health security, productive agriculture, natural disasters forecasting etc. New opportunities emerge to coordinate efforts to prevent harmful impact of natural disasters, thus rescuing thousands of human lives.

However, any modern technology development, including that in Outer Space, has its underside – the more sophisticated they become, the more difficult it turns out to control their end use.

In the field of Outer Space Security right now we do have four standing initiatives:

- promotion of the draft of the legally binding PPWT,
- globalization of our NFP-initiative,
- implementation of the provisions of the UN GGE report on TCBMs,
- and a balanced discussion of the EU proposal of an ICoC.

All these four initiatives are tightly interrelated and can hardly be considered separately.

Our top priority is PPWT.

Outer Space is the only environment still free of weapons, thus not suffering from all well known “Cut-Off” problems. Nuclear weapons were used only once and since that time we have been dealing with disarmament issues for many decades, without any particular prospects for reaching a global zero.

PPWT is a pragmatic project that takes into account the realities of today's world as well as the current political and strategic thinking. It introduces an "insurance" for all states and removes the majority of concerns about possible strike weapons appearance in outer space.

Our strong belief is that we must take advantage of this privileged position and agree on a comprehensive ban on placement of weapons in Outer Space. That could become a real landmark in moving towards a universal and complete disarmament in accordance with our obligations under NPT Article VI. For sure that could also promote a solution all other mounting problems of long-term sustainability and security of space activities.

Now we are finalizing our drafting of an updated text of PPWT which is supposed to reflect the observations already made by interested States. We plan to submit the text during the current CD session.

An important practical step towards PPWT is the Russian initiative/political commitment not to be the first to place weapons in Outer Space (NFP-initiative is already supported by all CSTO states, Brazil, Indonesia and Sri Lanka). Such a political commitment does not require prior lengthy technical consultations or any further intrusive verification. However, the NFP-initiative is an important international measure of transparency and confidence-building and a

serious indicator of a state's responsibility for its Outer Space activities. It increases the level of predictability and responsibility in Outer Space. We invite all responsible states to join this important TCB measure, which at the same time is a huge step towards legally binding PPWT.

Taking into account the mounting support for NFP-initiative we started our work on promoting an appropriate draft resolution to be submitted to the UNGA at its 69th session. We will conduct active explanatory work at all forthcoming disarmament fora (the UNIDIR annual international space conference, UN Disarmament Commission session, CD thematic discussions, BRICS, CSTO, CIS and CELAC meetings etc.).

The PPWT and NFP initiatives were highly appraised by the UN GGE on TCBMs and were endorsed in the final report submitted to the UNGA 68th session and in the historical UNGA consensus resolution initially submitted under the unprecedented sponsorship of Russia, China and USA.

We consider PPWT and NFP-initiative in line with introducing into international practice the provisions of the UN GGE report on TCBMs, the efforts made by the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to reach a long-term sustainability of space activities and the efforts of the EU on drafting an International Code of conduct. All of them properly developed could bring a valuable contribution to PPWT which is our main feasible goal in the field of arms control, NP & D.

We strongly believe that in order to create favorable conditions for achieving the goal of long-term sustainability of space activities first thing to do is to guarantee that there won't be any weapon in Outer Space

Outer Space remains the only area in our uncertain World where we still do not have weapons, where we still do not have confrontation and we all together can preserve it in that state for the sake of peace, prosperity and stable development of future generations.