



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the United Nations - New York

**First Committee of the 81st UN General Assembly
Cluster III – Outer Space**

**Statement by H.E. Tomaso Pietro Marchegiani
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament in
Geneva**

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Chair,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Outer space security has become an increasingly urgent priority for the international community. Preserving a safe, secure and sustainable space environment is essential not only for international peace and security, but also for protecting the technological progress from which humanity as a whole has benefited.

Our societies increasingly depend on space-based infrastructure and services for communications, navigation, transportation, weather forecasting, disaster management and countless other aspects of daily life. Ensuring space security is therefore a common interest extending well beyond space-faring nations.

Against this background, Italy strongly reaffirms the centrality of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty as the cornerstone of international space law. Its fundamental principles remain as relevant as ever: outer space must be explored and used for the benefit of all countries, without national appropriation; weapons of mass destruction must not be placed in orbit or otherwise stationed in outer space; and the Moon and other celestial bodies must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Chair,

Italy believes that preventing an arms race in outer space requires a pragmatic and progressive approach. Norms, rules and principles addressing behaviours and activities in outer space can respond to immediate security concerns, reduce the risks of misunderstanding and miscalculation and help build the confidence necessary to advance towards legally binding instruments.

These approaches are not alternatives, but complementary and mutually reinforcing.

At the same time, the civilian, commercial and security dimensions of space activities are increasingly interconnected. Italy therefore attaches particular importance to strengthening synergies among the different international fora dealing with outer space, while avoiding unnecessary duplication. Geneva and Vienna have distinct mandates, but their work can and should reinforce each other.

Italy continues to engage actively in the Open-ended Working Group on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in all its aspects, under the leadership of Ambassador Carlos Foradori of Argentina. At the same time, Italy has the honour of chairing COPUOS for the 2026–2027 term.

We should encourage appropriate channels of communication between these processes and engagement with other relevant actors, including international organisations, research institutions, academia, commercial operators and civil society. Their expertise can help us identify practical solutions to increasingly complex challenges.

Chair,

In some areas, discussions have already reached a significant degree of maturity. We should build on this convergence and translate it into concrete progress.

One such area is destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing. Italy reiterates its support for the commencement of negotiations on a legally binding instrument prohibiting such tests. Their destructive consequences, particularly the generation of long-lived space debris, threaten the safety and sustainability of space activities for all States.

Preserving outer space for peaceful purposes is a collective responsibility. Italy will continue to work across all relevant fora to promote dialogue, enhance mutual understanding and progressively strengthen the international framework governing space activities, ensuring that outer space remains a domain of cooperation and peaceful development for present and future generations.

I thank you, Chair.