

India's Explanation of Vote (POST VOTING)
Outer Space Cluster- 77th UNGA First Committee, 1 November 2022,
UNHQ, New York
- Delivered by Ms. Subhashini Narayanan, Counsellor (Disarmament)

L.62 Destructive Direct Ascent Anti-Satellite Missile Testing

India has always been opposed to the weaponization of the outer space.

We share the concerns about the potential dangers arising from space debris to the safety and long-term sustainability of outer space.

India's implementation of existing guidelines and measures that relate to debris is class- leading. India also participates actively and constructively in multilateral processes that consolidate and strengthen the international regime for outer space.

India believes, however, that matters relating to debris fall within the purview of UN COPUOS.

India remains committed to substantive consideration of the prevention of an arms race in outer space within the multilateral framework of the UN. We support the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on PAROS in the Conference on Disarmament.

This resolution does not address the key issue of preventing an arms race in outer space through a universally acceptable, verifiable, and multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument on PAROS.

India believes that such an instrument should focus on all space threats in a comprehensive manner.

We are, accordingly, constrained to abstain on L.62.

L.67: No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space

India has voted in favour of L.67 on the No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space. The resolution states that the legal regime applicable to outer space needs to be consolidated and reinforced. India supports this objective as well as strengthening of the international legal regime to protect and preserve access to space for all and to prevent, without exceptions, the weaponization of outer space.

We support the substantive consideration of PAROS in the CD. We see No First Placement of weapons in outer space as a useful initiative and not a substitute for substantive legal measures to ensure the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

We have voted against PP5 of this resolution due to the inclusion of the phrase “a community of shared future for humankind”. This phrase is part of a political ideology and a resolution of the UNGA is not the appropriate place to reflect ideologies of countries.

L.70: Further Practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space

India has traditionally supported this resolution and has voted in favour. As to PP5, India has cast a negative vote, the reasons for which we have explained in our EOVS for L. 67. India continues to support substantive consideration of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and we remain committed to legally-binding instrument on PAROS which is universally acceptable, verifiable and multilaterally negotiated in the CD.
