MYANMAR

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**Statement by**

**Ambassador Htin LYNN, Permanent Representative**

**of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office**

**and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

**at the First Committee Thematic Discussion on Outer Space (disarmament aspects)**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) delivered by Indonesia.

2. Research and development in new space technologies and capabilities are progressing faster than ever. While we have every intention to apply advanced technologies for our better lives, many expressed concerns over the new technological impact on military purposes and consequently an arms race in outer space.

3. Applying new technology advancements and growing use of outer space should come with greater transparency, better information sharing and bolder confidence building measures. All venues to enhance global and inclusive transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities should be vigorously explored in order to timely prevent an arms race in outer space.

4. In this context, the work of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 65/68 is commendable. The proposed voluntary measures and recommendations in its consensus report A/68/189* of 29 July 2013, constitutes, indeed, a good foundation for TCBMs.

5. We should embrace these voluntary TCBMs as measures to promote trust among states and security for all. They should be implemented to the greatest extent possible by all particularly by States with major space-related activities, expertise and capabilities.

6. Substantive discussions in the “way ahead” working group of the Conference on Disarmament this year on the agenda of Prevention of an arms race in outer space reveals that technological and scientific developments as well as the evolution of threats should be taken into consideration in discussions on the issue. We believe that a dedicated body or an ad hoc group or another GGE should be considered in order to address space related issues comprehensively.

7. In addition to the basic framework of international space law as created by the Outer Space Treaty, space activities should be legally guided in a binding manner. Myanmar believes that Conference on Disarmament has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

8. Against this backdrop, we welcome all efforts and proposals under the agenda item “prevention of an arms race in outer space”, including the updated draft treaty text submitted jointly by the Russian federation and China.

**Mr. Chairman,**

9. Outer space is the common heritage of mankind. The exploration and use of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries.

10. We must act together to preserve our common heritage.

11. The prudent sees the danger.

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