MYANMAR

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Statement by

Mr. Pye Soe Aung, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations

at the Thematic Discussion on Cluster 3:

"Outer Space (disarmament aspects)" of the First Committee

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Mr.Chairman,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of ASEAN and NAM. I would like to add the following in my national capacity.

2. Today's new space technologies and capabilities within and beyond the global space community have been advancing rapidly. We all recognize that those advanced space technologies are aimed to be applied for the betterment of socio-economic and technological development. On the other hand, many have expressed their concerns about the grave adverse consequences that would arise from an arms race in outer space.

3. If the outer space becomes militarized due to increasing tensions, it would not only threaten security of all countries but would also undermine the current disarmament initiatives.

4. Enhancing transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) will play pivotal role to ease the doubt for weaponization in outer space. Therefore, TCBMs in all aspects are strongly encouraged.

5. In this regard, Myanmar welcomes the GGE established by General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/68 and its work. We recognize its recommendations, especially adherence to relevant principles of the Outer Space Treaty, the Charter of the United Nations and related disarmament and non- proliferation treaties. While those principles are good foundation in fostering cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space, we do not think that they are sufficient to prevent an arms race in outer space. In this regard, we welcome the initiative of China and Russia for introducing the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects in the CD.

6. Cognizant of inter-state tensions and emerging threats to the international rules-based order, Myanmar welcomes the establishment of GGE by resolution A/RES/72/250 and its recommendations, especially on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

7. Myanmar continues to uphold its trust and confidence in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament. We also share the view that the CD should assume, without further delay, its primary role in negotiating an agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

Mr.Chairman,

8. To conclude, outer space must be maintained as a common heritage of all mankind. Its activities must be utilized solely for peaceful purposes. No harmful action in outer space must be allowed regardless of any reason.

9. Myanmar calls for all member states to work together to prevent any dangerous action in outer space and to maintain the peaceful use of it for the betterment of all mankind and future generations.

10. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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