

**Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the
Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects**

The States Parties to this Treaty,

Reaffirming that further exploration and use of outer space plays an ever-increasing role in the development of humankind,

Willing that outer space would not turn into a new area of weapon placement and an arena for military confrontation to avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

Reaffirming the importance of strict compliance with the existing multilateral agreements related to outer space activities and recognizing that the observance of principles and rules of international space law in outer space activities contributes to building confidence in peaceful intentions of States,

Noting that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies of January 27, 1967 (hereinafter referred to as the 1967 Outer Space Treaty), obliges the States Parties not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, not to install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

Recognizing that while the existing international agreements related to outer space and the legal regime thereof play a positive role in regulating outer space activities, however they are unable to fully prevent the placement of weapons in outer space,

Recalling the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" which *inter alia* emphasize the need to examine further measures in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

For the purpose of this Treaty:

(a) the term "outer space object" means any device placed in outer space and designed for operating therein.

(b) the term "weapon in outer space" means any outer space object or its component produced or converted to eliminate, damage or disrupt normal functioning of objects in outer space, on the Earth's surface or in the air, as well as to eliminate population, components of biosphere important to human existence, or to inflict damage to them by using any principles of physics.

(c) a device is considered as "placed in outer space" when it orbits the Earth at least once, or follows a section of such an orbit before leaving this orbit, or is placed at any location in outer space or on any celestial bodies other than the Earth.

(d) the terms "use of force" or "threat of force" mean, respectively, any intended action to inflict damage to outer space object under the jurisdiction and/or control of other States, or clearly expressed in written, oral or any other form intention of such action. Actions subject to special agreements with those States providing for actions, upon request, to discontinue uncontrolled flight of outer space objects under the jurisdiction and/or control of the requesting States shall not be regarded as use of force or threat of force.

Article II

States Parties to this Treaty shall:

- not place any weapons in outer space;
- not resort to the threat or use of force against outer space objects of States Parties;
- not engage in outer space activities, as part of international cooperation, inconsistent with the subject matter and the purpose of this Treaty;
- not assist or incite other States, groups of States, international, intergovernmental and any non-governmental organizations, including non-governmental legal entities established, registered or located in the territory under their jurisdiction and/or control to participate in activities

inconsistent with the subject matter and the purpose of this Treaty.

Article III

Nothing in this Treaty can be interpreted as preventing the States Parties from exploring and using outer space for peaceful purposes in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

Article IV

This Treaty shall by no means affect the States Parties' inherent right to individual or collective self-defense, as recognized by Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Article V

States Parties recognize the need for measures to control compliance with the provisions of this Treaty, which may be the subject of an additional protocol.

In order to enhance confidence in compliance with the provisions of this Treaty States Parties can implement on a voluntary basis, unless agreed otherwise, agreed transparency and confidence-building measures.

Article VI

To promote the implementation of the purposes and provisions of the Treaty, the States Parties shall establish the Executive Organization of the Treaty, which shall:

- (a) consider matters related to the operation and implementation of the Treaty;
- (b) receive for consideration inquiries by a State Party or a group of States Parties related to an alleged violation of the Treaty;
- (c) organize and conduct consultations with the States Parties in order to address the situation related to the alleged violation of the Treaty;
- (d) refer the dispute to the United Nations General Assembly or the United Nations Security Council if the problem related to the alleged violation of this Treaty remains unresolved;
- (e) organize and hold meetings to discuss and accept the proposed amendments to this Treaty;
- (f) develop procedures for collective data sharing and information analysis;

- (g) collect and distribute information provided as part of transparency and confidence-building measures;
- (h) receive notifications on the accession of new States to this Treaty and submit them to the Secretary-General of the United Nations;
- (i) consider, upon agreement with the States Parties, other procedural and substantive matters.

The procedure of formation, the composition of the working bodies, operating procedures and provision of work of the Executive Organization of this Treaty shall be subject of an additional protocol.

States Parties shall cooperate with the Executive Organization of this Treaty to facilitate its performance of the functions entrusted to it.

Article VII

A State Party which has reasons to believe that another State Party fails to fulfill the obligations imposed by this Treaty may request this State Party to clarify the related situation. The requested State Party shall provide the clarification as soon as possible.

If the requesting State Party deems the clarification unable to solve its concerns, it may request consultations with the requested State Party. The requested State Party shall immediately enter into such consultations. The information concerning the outcome of consultations shall be sent to the Executive Organization of this Treaty, which shares the information received with all States Parties.

If the consultations do not lead to a mutual settlement with due regard to the interests of all States Parties, any State Party or a group of States Parties shall seek assistance of the Executive Organization of the Treaty and provide the relevant evidence for further consideration of such a dispute. The Executive Organization may convene a meeting among States Parties to review such a dispute, make decisions identifying a violation of this Treaty and prepare recommendations based on States Parties' proposals to settle the dispute and eliminate the violation. The Executive Organization may, in case it is not able to settle the dispute or eliminate the violation, bring the issue, including relevant information and conclusions, to the attention of the United Nations General Assembly or the United Nations Security Council.

In cases subject to the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects of 1972, the relevant provisions of the Convention shall be used.

Article VIII

In this Treaty references to the States, except those contained in Article IX-XIII, shall imply any international intergovernmental organization, which operates in outer space, if such organization declares that it assumes the obligations provided by this Treaty and if the majority of its member States are States Parties to this Treaty. Member States of such organization, which are Parties to this Treaty, shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the organization make such declaration in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

Article IX

This Treaty shall be opened for signature by all States at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Any State which did not sign the Treaty before its entry into force may accede to it at any time.

This Treaty shall be subject to ratification by signatory States in accordance with their internal procedures.

Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who is hereby designated the Depositor of this Treaty.

Article X

This Treaty shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by twenty States, including all Permanent Member States of the United Nations Security Council.

For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited after the entry into force of this Treaty, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall inform all signatory or acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of the deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession, the date of the entry into force of this Treaty, the proposals for amending this Treaty, of the arising disputes and their settlement, as well as of other notifications, if necessary.

Article XI

Any State Party may propose amendments to this Treaty. The text of a proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation to all States Parties. An amendment conference shall be convened if at least one third of the States Parties agree to do so.

Amendments shall enter into force upon their acceptance by consensus.

Article XII

This Treaty shall be of unlimited duration.

Each State Party shall in exercising its national sovereignty have the right to withdraw from this Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events, related to the subject matter of this Treaty, have jeopardized its supreme interests. It shall notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the written form of the decision taken six months in advance of the withdrawal from the Treaty. Such notification shall include a statement of the extraordinary events that the notifying State Party regards as having jeopardized its supreme interests.

Article XIII

This Treaty, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall send duly certified copies thereof to all signatory and acceding States.