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PRESS RELEASE**Outcome of Space Security Conference in Geneva**

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A representative international conference, "Building the Architecture for Sustainable Space Security," took place in Geneva on March 30-31. It was organized by Canada, Russia, the People's Republic of China, the Canadian Simons Center for Disarmament and Nonproliferation Research and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

In his address to its participants, Valery Loshchinin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva, emphasized that attempts to justify the necessity of placing weapons in space by national security would eventually lead to its weakening, not strengthening. He also noted the growing determination of the international community to prevent placement of weapons in space and expressed hope that an upcoming in-depth debate in June on this problem within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament would serve to promote the ideas of preserving the peaceful status of space.

There were substantively discussed the threats to space security at this stage; likely adverse implications of placing weapons in space for strategic stability; existing proposals, primarily from Russia and China, for developing a new international legal agreement to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space and the use or threat of force against space objects; and possible mechanisms of control over compliance with the proposed new commitments.

The conference expressed support for the initiative announced by Russia at the 59th Session of the UN General Assembly in October 2004 not to be the first to place weapons of any kind in outer space. An appeal was addressed to other states with space capabilities to follow this example - the first practical step towards a comprehensive ban on the placement of weapons in space. The role of Russia in preparing and advancing the resolution on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, adopted by the 60th UN General Assembly Session, was positively noted.

The Russian side is satisfied with the results of the international space conference and considers that this event will contribute to the soonest resumption of the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament, which is the most suitable international forum for

discussing the problem of preventing the placement of weapons in space and for elaborating new international legal agreements in this field.

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