

(Ms. Sinegiorgis, Ethiopia)

proposal for the establishment of a committee or group of experts which will look into definitions and verification techniques. This, in our view, will lay the technical groundwork to enable the ad hoc committee to pursue its task more effectively. The longer we delay in adopting a common approach to tackle the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the greater the difficulties we will face. Our concerted effort should be deployed to realize the objective of the prohibition of the use of outer space for hostile purposes. Likewise the vast potential of space technology should be used for the advancement and the well-being of mankind.

CD/PV.487

17

President: Mr. Aldo Pugliese (Italy)

I now turn to requests from non-members to participate in the work of the Ad hoc Committee. In that connection, I should like to note that for technical reasons relating to a process of consultations, the secretariat had to prepare the working papers relating to invitations to non-members with a reference to a subsidiary body on agenda item 5. This should be disregarded, as we have not been able yet to re-establish that Ad hoc Committee. We shall consider the references to a subsidiary body on agenda item 5 as deleted from working paper CD/WP.359 and Add.1 to 19. When we re-establish the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, we shall then take the working papers up again to deal with agenda item 5.

CD/PV.488

9

(Mr. Vajnar, Czechoslovakia)

The Czechoslovak delegation considers the Conference on Disarmament sufficiently representative to address successfully the priority questions related to nuclear disarmament and the finalization of the chemical weapons convention. Naturally, while specific measures are being discussed and negotiated in this direction, arms must not be moved into outer space. Czechoslovakia does not see the tasks I have just mentioned as noble but distant goals. We are ready to contribute to their achievement through specific steps, including unilateral steps when there is a hope that they will lead to positive developments.