

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

Our Conference can also erect insurmountable barriers to the extension of the arms race into outer space. The Conference has thoroughly studied all aspects of this problem, and it is high time that the work of the Ad hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space focused on practical matters. In this respect it is of major importance to ensure proper verification, leaving no loopholes for violations. As one possible solution the Soviet Union has introduced for the consideration of the Conference the idea of establishing an international outer space inspectorate. In the near future the Soviet delegation will provide new, more comprehensive observations on this issue, with practical details concerning the permanent presence of groups of inspectors at all space launch sites, the conduct of inspections at agreed storage facilities, industrial plants, laboratories and testing centres, as well as emergency inspections without the right of refusal should suspicion arise that an undeclared launch of a space object has been carried out.

I should like to emphasize that making its work more concrete is the only way for the Conference on Disarmament to make a substantial contribution to fulfilling the mandate spelt out by the international community - to keep outer space peaceful.

The Soviet Union is in favour of the most stringent and effective monitoring in all fields. We have proposed the creation, under the auspices of the United Nations, of machinery for broad international monitoring of compliance with agreements on reducing international tension and on arms limitation, as well as monitoring of the military situation in areas of conflict. Such machinery, to our mind, would involve the use of various forms and methods of monitoring for the purposes of collecting information and transmitting it expeditiously to the United Nations. Considering that, as we move along the road to disarmament, verification will become a most important factor in ensuring international security, we call for a comprehensive international dialogue on these issues, a substantive discussion of all existing ideas, including the important new proposals from the Six-nation Initiative, and the joint outlining of mutually acceptable ways and means of implementing them.