

(Mr. Taffar, Algeria)

The time has thus come to start negotiations towards the adoption of effective measures to prevent the extension of the arms race to outer space. To this end, my delegation supports the proposal for the setting up of an ad hoc working group on this question, without prejudice to respect for the order of priority of the questions included in the Committee's agenda.

I should like, before I conclude, to say a few words about the Committee's working methods. My delegation still believes that the formula of ad hoc working groups constitutes the best approach for the consideration of the items that are before us. On the basis of this conviction, my delegation supports in principle any proposal for the establishment of an ad hoc working group which would help us to move forward along the road to disarmament, due respect being paid to the order of priorities set forth in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The Algerian delegation consequently deplores the misuse of the principle of consensus to block the establishment of ad hoc working groups on such urgent matters as the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

CD/PV.183

42

Mr. YU MENGJIA (China) (translated from Chinese): Mr. Chairman, today, I wish to make some preliminary remarks on the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The rapid development of space science and technology has greatly raised man's ability to conquer the universe and utilize its potentialities. At present, space science and technology are being gradually and effectively applied to man's production activities and various aspects of man's life, thus constituting an important element in the acceleration of nations' economic development, the improvement of people's living conditions and the promotion of social progress.