

(Mr. Kusuma-Atmadja, Indonesia)

Great strides have been made in science and technology attesting to mankind's ingenuity and affecting every sphere of human activity. Nowhere is this use of technological prowess more apparent than in the ongoing efforts to militarize outer space, which would inevitably result in heightened strategic competition and greater mutual vulnerability and further deepen the global economic crisis. It would also critically impact on the ongoing programmes of peaceful satellite communications, especially those of States located adjacent to the geostationary orbit. Unless the major Powers adhere strictly to the existing legal restrictions and refrain from developing, testing and deploying space-based weapons, there is little doubt that the last frontier of human endeavour will soon turn into a new battleground. Over and above these, there is an imperative need for new and far-reaching measures. The ABM Treaty should be reinforced in the context of new technological developments, including provisions to prohibit anti-satellite weapons. The promotion of outer space activities exclusively for peaceful uses calls for substantive examination of the issues leading to effective and practical negotiation and agreements.

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(Mr. Varkonyi, Hungary)

Prevention of an arms race in outer space is for us a key issue of international security and disarmament. We share the view that outer space is a common patrimony of mankind which should be reserved for and made available to peaceful activities at the service of common interests.

We are convinced that the Conference on Disarmament has ample possibilities at hand to contribute to the prevention of an arms race in space and to guaranteeing peaceful activities there. So far the Committee concerned with this issue has done useful work helping us to get better acquainted with the problems involved, but now we deem it timely for the Committee to proceed