

(Mr. Rose, German Democratic Republic)

The prevention of an arms race in outer space is an international task of the highest priority. There is far-reaching agreement on that. In an effort to speed up the conclusion of a treaty and, at the same time, pave the way for a reduction in strategic nuclear weapons, the USSR has just recently submitted a draft treaty in its bilateral negotiations with the United States. The German Democratic Republic welcomes this initiative. I think the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, too, will have to make its contribution to ensuring that no type of weapon is stationed in outer space and that space is used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Many delegations believe that the Conference should devote more attention to practical measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. It was in this context that I presented some ideas in my speech of 28 July on what a treaty banning ASAT weapons could look like and how the immunity of space objects could be guaranteed in very practical terms.

Today I would like to introduce, on behalf of the delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic and my own, a working paper in which we suggest the main provisions of a future treaty on the prohibition of anti-satellite weapons and on ways to ensure the immunity of space objects. The paper has come out as CD/777. It focuses on the scope of such a treaty, compliance with its provisions and the safeguarding of the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the good of all peoples. Various verification methods and techniques are proposed, among them on-site challenge inspections under the auspices of an international inspectorate. Information obtained through national means, as well as data on launch parameters and the general function of space objects, should be made available to all parties to the treaty.

We offer this document as a basis for discussion and trust it will be useful in the ongoing search for understanding at the Conference, especially in the Committee on agenda item 5. In conclusion, I wish to thank the secretariat for having distributed our working paper so promptly.