

(Mr. Benhima, Morocco)

In the face of these activities in space, we cannot but acknowledge that the existing array of international instruments, particularly the 1967 outer space treaty, the 1979 agreement governing the activities of States on the Moon and other celestial bodies, as well as the ABM Treaty of 1972, have not been able to prevent the militarization of space. This is why we share the conviction of the General Assembly in its resolution 41/53 that "further measures are urgently needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space".

We are pleased that the United States and the Soviet Union are working to this end in their negotiations in Geneva. We express the fervent hope that their efforts, as well as the efforts of the Conference, which is also actively involved in this area through its ad hoc committee under the competent chairmanship of Ambassador Aldo Pugliese of Italy, will be crowned with success.

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It is also a pleasure for me to express my Government's gratitude to the Canadian Government for the workshop on outer space organized in Montreal last May. This workshop was devoted to one of the items on the Conference's agenda to which we attach paramount importance. It is our hope that the workshop will contribute to the implementation of the mandate entrusted to the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.