

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

refusal to create new blocs in the region or to expand the existing one, and the elimination of foreign military bases in the territories of countries of Asia and the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

At its fortieth session, the General Assembly clearly declared that outer space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become an arena for an arms race. In resolution 40/87 on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which was adopted by an absolute majority of United Nations Member States, it once again requested the Conference on Disarmament to undertake negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects. Unfortunately, so far the Conference has not managed to comply with this instruction from the General Assembly. There is a major obstacle to the solution of the issue of the non-militarization of space, namely, the United States' Star Wars programme. The supporters of the so-called Strategic Defence Initiative persist in trying to convince people that it will render nuclear weapons "unnecessary and obsolete". But common sense suggests that if the goal is really the elimination of nuclear weapons and the prevention of an arms race in outer space, then what is required is to engage seriously and thoroughly in disarmament and not to embark on the creation and deployment of expensive strike systems in space. We consider that currently in the light of the Soviet Union's new historic initiative aimed at the step-by-step reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of this century, this opportunity should not be neglected for the sake of dubious ideas concerning the supplanting of nuclear weapons by so-called space defence systems.

Consequently Mongolia, like the majority of other States in the world, considers it important and essential for the USSR and the United States to agree, as the Soviet Union proposes, on a mutual renunciation of the

development, testing and deployment of space offensive weapons. This would be a major step towards carrying into practice the well-known agreements reached in the Soviet Union-United States joint declarations of 8 January and 21 November 1985.

(Mr. Imai, Japan)

The developments in the bilateral area as I have so far touched upon are extremely important and have a favourable influence on the general atmosphere of disarmament. It is opportune, therefore, to recall at this time the interrelationship between such a bilateral approach and that of a multilateral nature, and consider means to make best use of our forum for multilateral disarmament negotiations, namely the Conference on Disarmament. The successful outcome of the NPT review as well as the developments of the bilateral United States-USSR negotiations are providing a favourable atmosphere for the continuation of efforts at this Conference. Additional efforts and renewed approaches are called of us in dealing with the questions of the nuclear test ban, a ban on chemical weapons, prevention of an arms race in outer space and other items on our agenda.