

(Mr. Natwar Singh, India)

The non-aligned and neutral countries have consistently taken the position that the development of space weapons and an arms race in outer space must be prevented. It has been acknowledged that the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes must be carried out for the benefit of and in the interest of all developing countries, irrespective of their degree of economic and scientific development. Outer space is the common heritage of all mankind. During the last 30 years, since the launching of the first satellite, there have been remarkable advances in the utilization of space for scientific activities, so far largely peaceful. Space research has expanded the horizons of science and enhanced our understanding of the fundamental mysteries of the universe. It has opened up hitherto unimaginable vistas which have the potential of transforming the conditions of life on our planet. Countries large and small, rich and poor have all benefited from space communications, space remote sensing and space meteorology in a manner unthinkable a few decades ago. These immense possibilities that are unfolding before us call for harmonizing of national interests and avoidance of any unilateral measures that could conflict with or queer the pitch for their optimum utilization.

(Mr. Kosin, Yugoslavia)

Now that the Ad hoc Committee on Radiological Weapons and the Ad hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space have been reactivated, attempts should be made to formulate measures and conclusions, and thus structure the debate. The dilemmas existing in this regard should not for the time being take the front seat, because adequate solutions could more easily be worked out at a later stage. We hold that the chairmen of these two committees, the distinguished Ambassadors Meiszter and Pugliese respectively, will, thanks to their personal qualities and diplomatic experience, see to it that substantial progress is made in these areas.