

(Mr. Herder, German Democratic Republic)

But how long should we wait for real negotiations, not to speak about measures to curb the arms race in outer space? We have to take into account the fact that the United States some years ago broke off bilateral talks on the cessation of the arms race in outer space. Even more: as is well known, the United States only recently set up a military outer space command and is implementing a huge military programme in outer space.

Therefore, no efforts should be spared to start immediately negotiations on the prohibition of the arms race in outer space. The draft treaty tabled by the USSR last year represents an appropriate basis for real negotiations.

A Working Group should be set up on this subject. Where should all substantive problems be discussed and explored if not in the framework of such a body?

One cannot pronounce oneself in favour of the consideration of concrete measures against the arms race in outer space while at the same time rejecting the establishment of appropriate bodies to deal with all the proposals, draft treaties and documents which have been submitted on this subject. My delegation fully supports the draft mandate for such a Working Group proposed by the Mongolian People's Republic in document CD/272. The Committee should take action on this proposal and not confine itself to a non-committing academic exercise on the prevention of the arms race in outer space.

My delegation will support every initiative to this end.

(Mr. Taffar, Algeria)

The question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space is the item for discussion at our meeting today. No one is unaware of the importance of this subject in view of the threat of the extension of the arms race to outer space which is increasing day by day. The use of space technology for military purposes greatly increases the risk of outer space becoming the arena of rivalries and constituting a threat to peace, security and the peaceful use of space. Paragraph 80 of the Final Document of 1978 states that further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held to prevent an arms race in outer space.

In the consideration of this question, the importance and complexity of which no one can deny, a global approach should be adopted covering all types of armaments and all activities connected with the development, production, stockpiling and deployment and use in outer space of all types of weapons, while allowing the right of every State to engage in the exploration and the peaceful use of outer space. All negotiations on this question ought, moreover, to include a consideration of measures to promote international co-operation in the matter of the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.