

(Mr. Sene, Senegal)

unilateral declarations is recognized in the field of disarmament as a confidence-building factor, none the less it cannot replace obligations stemming from the binding force of a convention.

CD/PV.477

12

(Mr. Sene, Senegal)

I would add that the conclusion of a convention on chemical weapons as well as the achievement of balance between the arsenals of conventional weapons of the two major alliances would offer irrefutable proof of good faith vis-à-vis the obligations entered into under the provisions of article VI of the NPT. Undoubtedly, such a development would have great impact on nuclear disarmament on Earth, it being understood that we should prevent the vital interests of the security of all States from being threatened by new military devices deployed in space. Which brings me to my last point, the prevention of an arms race in space. The multilateral dimension of the peaceful use of space requires that all States should actively participate in preventing an

CD/PV.477

13

(Mr. Sene, Senegal)

arms race in this field. It is true that space is already the subject of measures of protection which should be borne in mind in drawing up an appropriate international instrument. Because activities pertaining to the exploration and use of space should be carried out in conformity with the principles of international law, including the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. More specifically, we should consolidate and strengthen the legal régime in force applicable to space and draw useful lessons from the work of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.