

(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

A quarter of a century has passed since man first began to explore outer space. His concern to prevent that space from being used for military purposes dates from that very same time. More than one international agreement has been elaborated and adopted prohibiting any objects equipped with nuclear weapons or other types of weapons of mass destruction from being placed in orbit around the Earth or stationed in outer space by any other method.

However, these measures have been insufficient to avert completely the danger of the militarization of outer space. For use has been made to this end of the absence, in the relevant international agreements, of any provision banning the stationing in outer space of types of weapons which do not come under the definition of "weapons of mass destruction". As you know, various military preparations and a whole range of programmes for conducting war in outer space are being elaborated in the United States. Such attempts to turn outer space into an arena for the arms race are fraught with far-reaching consequences for peace and international security.

In the interests of the future peaceful use of outer space for the good of all mankind, and averting the danger of an arms race in outer space, the Soviet Union has put forward an important proposal for the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space.

In our view, the Soviet proposal is based on a comprehensive approach to the solution of the problem. General Assembly resolution 36/99 requests the Committee in unambiguous terms to embark on negotiations with a view to achieving agreement on the text of such a treaty.

(Mr. Jayakoddy, Sri Lanka)

Item 7 of the draft agenda suggests that we discuss further measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. My delegation fully supports all measures designed to safeguard outer space as the common heritage of mankind that should not become the scene for an arms race the like of which we are unable to control here on earth. My delegation can therefore live with this item being on the agenda. But, we would like to underline the need for this Committee to give the highest priority to the items that have already been before us for so long. Whilst recognizing the emergence of new dangers, we must not overlook our failure to tackle serious dangers, that have been with us for so long. My delegation therefore hopes that we can arrive at a mutually agreeable decision on item 7 without protracted debate.