

Mr. ALFARARGI (Egypt) (translated from Arabic): Mr. President, I have pleasure in submitting to the Conference document CD/641 containing the first report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space of which I have had the honour to be Chairman during the present session.

The Ad Hoc Committee began its work on 24 June 1985 and, notwithstanding the limited amount of time remaining before the closure of the session, has been able to accomplish a great deal as a result of its intensive work at 20 meetings, bearing in mind that this was the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee adhered to its programme of work comprising the following three items:

(a) The political, military, economic and other consequences of an extension of the arms race into outer space.

(b) The importance of existing international agreements concerning the limitation of military activities in outer space with a view to the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

(c) Proposals of States members of the Conference on Disarmament concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

In order to deal with these items in a balanced manner, the Committee allocated an equal number of meetings to the consideration of each item.

Part III of the report reviews the points of view that were expressed concerning these three items. Although this part of the report reflects differing viewpoints concerning the future work of the Ad Hoc Committee, part IV of the report, entitled "Conclusion", indicates a consensus in the Committee, concerning the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the consequent need to make every effort to ensure the resumption of the substantive consideration of this agenda item at the next session of the Conference.

I hope that the Committee's endeavours have helped to lay the foundation for its work at future sessions in a manner conducive to the faithful discharge of its mandate.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the delegations for their valuable and earnest contribution to the Committee's work and for the spirit of flexibility and co-operation that they manifested and without which we would not have been able to achieve the results obtained. I am referring in particular to the co-operation and endeavours of the group co-ordinators. Our gratitude and appreciation are also due to Miss Aida Levin, the Committee's Secretary, whose devoted co-operation and efficiency were instrumental in facilitating the Committee's work. I hope that you will also permit me, Sir, to convey my deep appreciation for the kind words that have been expressed in this forum concerning the Committee and its work.