

Mr. NAZARKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

In conclusion, a few words about another priority disarmament problem, the prevention of an arms race in outer space. For some years now this debate has been moving around in circles, as it were. We hope that the Ad hoc Committee on outer space will be re-established in the very near future and that it will prove capable of moving forward from academic discussions to the genuine search for areas of agreement. There is quite enough material for serious work. It includes the specific proposals made by the Soviet Union, in particular to ban anti-satellite systems, to create a system of verification of the non-deployment of weapons in outer space, and to establish an international satellite monitoring agency. The Soviet delegation will, of course, be prepared to participate constructively in the search for ways and means of achieving progress on the other items of the agenda of the Conference as well. Today, we are at the beginning of the road. But only those who move forward will reach their destination.

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18

President: Mr. Aldo Pugliese (Italy)

I had hoped today to be able also to re-establish the ad hoc committees on chemical weapons and on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, but unfortunately consultations have not yet produced results. However, I know that members are consulting actively, and it is my hope that we will succeed soon, so that the Conference might adopt the relevant decision at the plenary meeting next Thursday. I shall be happy if we are able to do so, as the secretariat is processing draft decisions on the participation of non-members in both ad hoc committees, under items 4 and 5, and I am sure that you will all agree with me that invitations to them to participate in our work should be extended at the earliest possible date.