

(Mr. Calderón, Peru)

Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, as well as those that are necessary to prohibit all anti-satellite weapon systems which are not based in outer space. It is understood that all of this should not undermine any régime for the full use of space for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

By definition, if one wishes to prevent the transfer of the arms race to outer space, the set of prohibitions to be agreed on should be comprehensive and free of all unambiguity; in other words, there should be no problems of interpretation such as that posed by article V of the ABM Treaty, because that would simply undermine mutual confidence and thus weaken the scope of these obligations. But perhaps what would be really important would be to set up guidelines or parameters which would allow for the regulation of advanced technology. While not taking the existing non-proliferation régime as a model, because it is lopsided and discriminatory, Peru is of the view that it would be possible to explore formulas that would impose contractual limitations on the development of certain advanced technologies for hostile purposes that have a destabilizing effect on the status quo. Of course, the aim would not be to impede or discourage technological progress, but rather to regulate it so as to place it at the service of our needs and aspirations, and not to have it used for destruction and endless military competition.

This reflection leads us directly to another, relating to the important role that effective prevention of the arms race in outer space could play in halting and reversing the arms race as a whole. We think that there is a direct relationship here, and it is vital to avoid this new spiral in the arms race. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that the real problem does not lie here but in the causes and epiphenomena which encourage the arms race urbi et orbi. In other words, it remains an urgent and top priority to fight against the untiring search for illusory security through the indiscriminate build-up of weapons, of which the extension to outer space is only the most sophisticated manifestation.