

(The President)

Another priority item on our agenda, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, will be dealt with under the dynamic leadership of Ambassador Moritán of Argentina. I am pleased that it was possible to reach agreement on this important question, since the cumulative work done by the CD during past years has indicated interesting and productive avenues to explore on this subject.

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Mr. HYLTEINIUS (Sweden)

I should like to make the following statement on behalf of the Group of 21 in connection with the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

On 4 December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly, by an overwhelming majority and only one dissenting vote, adopted resolution 45/55 A on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The resolution reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects. It requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider this question as a matter of priority. It also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consideration of the question of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, building upon areas of convergence and taking into account relevant proposals and initiatives.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space has, over the years, accorded extensive consideration to several issues that have been before it. It has already examined and identified the need to reinforce the legal régime applicable to outer space, as well as the need for strict compliance with existing agreements. It has also considered further measures and the need to hold appropriate international negotiations in accordance with the spirit of the outer space Treaty. In this context the Group of 21 wishes to recall the large number of proposals from all groups introduced in the Conference on Disarmament since the inception of the work of its Ad Hoc Committee in 1985, as demonstrated in documents CD/908/Rev.1 and CD/OS/WP.28/Rev.1. In particular, several of them are, in the view of the Group of 21, ready for in-depth and more structured treatment as they have gathered a substantial degree of support among the majority of the members of the Committee.

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