

(Mr. Velayati, Islamic Republic of Iran)

The unabated nuclear arms race has gained momentum in such a way that it is going to contaminate outer space soon. It seems that the whole globe is not vast enough for the super-Powers to fill it with terror. Outer space is the common heritage of mankind and using it for any other than peaceful purposes is a crime against mankind. The development of space weapons has complicated the race qualitatively and has entangled the trend of nuclear disarmament with more complexity and problems. We believe that strengthening the legal régime for outer space can prevent the escalation of the arms race in new domains.

There is nothing to substantiate the claim that military satellites have a stabilizing role. If the presence of reconnaissance satellites is necessary in space, this can only be acceptable under strict international observance pending comprehensive disarmament. It is unfortunate to say that no sizable progress has been made in any of these areas. I hope that, by finalizing the convention on chemical disarmament the Conference will be able to gain momentum towards solving other disarmament issues.

CD/PV.425

9

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

The Ad hoc Committee on item 5 has been discussing the subject of prevention of an arms race in outer space for three consecutive years. This session it is working under the chairmanship of Ambassador Pugliese of Italy. In spite of the efforts of many delegations to move us closer to some kind of agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the current proceedings of the Ad hoc Committee are widely perceived as repetitious in many respects of the Committee's work last year. The decreased intensity of the Committee's deliberations might well be indicative of an already exhausted and apparently inadequate mandate. What we need now, and maybe next year, is more concrete, purpose-oriented and structured work on this item, with the eventual identification of points of convergence in the positions. Elaboration of specific treaty language and mutually agreed definitions on areas of generally recognized interest could well be the most logical next step in our work. The proposals put forward would be a natural focal point in this respect.