

(Mr. Cámpora, Argentina)

consideration of this item. We are convinced that as time passes without effective solutions in this sphere, diplomatic efforts will be overtaken by irreversible military realities.

The first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in 1978, clearly perceived the dangers inherent in the continuing militarization of outer space and the spread of the arms race to that environment. However, seven years had to lapse before the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body could establish, last year, the corresponding ad hoc committee with a timid mandate and for a brief period.

My delegation believes that it is urgently necessary for this Conference to continue its efforts on this issue, even if they are far from satisfying our aspirations and concerns. We have more than once expressed our satisfaction at the start of bilateral negotiations between the two main space Powers. At the same time, we have pointed out that these negotiations should not take place at the expense of the multilateral approach to the problem. We share the unanimous view point expressed in this Conference about the desirable complementarity between the bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union and the multilateral negotiations for which the Conference on Disarmament is responsible. However, as we have pointed out previously, the complementarity between these two frameworks cannot exist if there is no communication between them. It would therefore be useful for us to be periodically informed about the course of the bilateral negotiations, as stated in General Assembly resolution 40/87. A report by the other space Powers giving details of the various military activities they are undertaking would also be something which would contribute to a better understanding of this problem in Conference.

Military activity in space must be classified and described because otherwise it will not be possible to prohibit it. To this end it is necessary to exchange information and give wide-ranging detailed reports on what that military activity consists of, what space object with military uses are, and what space weapons are.

Paragraph 51 of the Ad Hoc Committee's Report last year says that it would be most beneficial for experts to take part in view of the complexity of the item. We support this idea.

More than two decades ago the United States and the Soviet Union began testing anti-satellite systems. The reasons for the continued interest in such systems are obvious in view of the essential functions carried out by satellites in those Powers' military forces. Thus, we should recall that the technology of anti-satellite systems is connected with the development of anti-ballistic missile systems. The existence of such systems, besides provoking countermeasures to eliminate them, intensifies the development of nuclear weapon systems. This issue, which so far has only been taken up at the bilateral level, has serious implications for the entire international community.

The weapon systems to which I have just referred, and others which may be developed, will certainly trigger off an unprecedented and potentially uncontrollable arms race both in space and on Earth. This process, which has critical effects for the security of the two military alliances, also endangers the survival of the world as a whole because of its potential for unleashing a nuclear war. The multilateral approach is therefore necessary so that the security interests of all States are taken into account.