

(Mr. Cámpora, Argentina)

The situation we face today, as has repeatedly been said by other distinguished colleagues in this Chamber, is extremely critical for the multilateral negotiating body if it does not begin negotiations on the chief items upon its agenda. Questions such as the negotiation of a treaty that will prohibit nuclear-weapon tests, the cessation of the nuclear-arms race, measures to prevent nuclear war, the necessity to avoid an arms race in outer space and the adoption of a comprehensive programme of disarmament cannot be delayed any further. Nor can we accept that progress on these items should depend upon something so haphazard as the relations between the two principal nuclear-weapon States and their allies. The Conference on Disarmament should not confine its work to the negotiation of questions which, in our judgement, lack the necessary priority, as is the case, among other things, of what are generally referred to as radiological weapons.

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(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

My delegation holds the view that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space should resume its activities as soon as possible.

There is no lack of valuable ideas and specific proposals in the Conference. We believe it is important now to focus the Committee's attention on the elaboration of significant measures conducive to guaranteeing the peaceful uses of outer space and preventing an arms race in it. This Conference should concentrate on the elaboration of an agreement or agreements, for instance on ensuring the immunity of artificial Earth satellites. In this context, it is warranted to explore the possibility of elimination of existing anti-satellite systems. In other words, what my delegation would like to see on item 5 is deeds.

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(Mr. Morelli-Pando, Peru)

The delegation of Peru will adhere to the position formulated by the Group of 21 with regard to the re-establishment of the committees on items 5, 6 and 7 of the agenda.

With respect to the first, item 5, prevention of an arms race in outer space, we are prepared to participate actively in discussing and considering this increasingly urgent priority item of the Conference on Disarmament, chiefly in the light of the concept of the peaceful uses of space and the possible analogies between such uses of outer space and the uses contemplated in the Convention on the Law of the Sea. The delegation of Peru firmly believes that this year the Ad Hoc Committee should be given a broader mandate than last year's which was its first, and an appropriate programme of work.