

(Mr. Alfarargi, Egypt)

On the basis of this principle, Egypt has fully supported the Joint Statement issued by the Heads of State or Government of Argentina, Tanzania, Sweden, Mexico, India and Greece on 28 January 1985, calling on the nuclear-weapon States to halt the arms race and to undertake appropriate urgent measures to prevent an arms race in outer space and to achieve a comprehensive ban on nuclear-weapon tests.

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Whereas we ought to concentrate all our efforts on halting the arms race and its reverse, we are facing today the escalating probability of the militarization of outer space as a result of the increasing competition between the States possessing advance space technology which enables them to enter in a race aiming at the development of their weapons systems in outer space. The extension of the arms race to outer space is a source of deep concern to the international community, and especially to third world countries, to which the use of outer space for military purposes constitutes a great danger, with all its threatening implications for their security, while they do not possess the capability to ensure themselves against such threats.

Based on these facts, Egypt has always worked hard in order to bring the international community to assume its responsibilities to prevent the extension of the arms race to outer space and to ensure that it will be strictly used for peaceful purposes. Egypt, together with Sri Lanka and the non-aligned and other neutral States, has exerted all efforts which led to the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution 39/59 concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space. That resolution reiterates, in paragraph 5, that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in all its aspects in outer space. In paragraph 8 of this resolution, the General Assembly has requested the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee at the beginning of its session in 1985, with a view to undertaking negotiations for this purpose. There is no doubt that the adoption of one resolution only on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, with 150 votes in favour and none against, is vivid proof of the existence of international consensus on the danger which the tendency to militarize outer space represents, and the urgent need to face it, before it is too late, by letting the Conference on Disarmament, the only multilateral negotiating forum in the field of disarmament, assume this task. Thus, we hope that no obstacle will prevent the Conference on Disarmament from implementing the tasks which the General Assembly has entrusted to it.