

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

space organization whose main task would be the peaceful exploration and use of outer space through the joint efforts and for the benefit of all States without exception, and the monitoring of compliance with treaties aimed at preventing the arms race from spreading to outer space as they are concluded.

Thus, this programme represents the only viable alternative to an arms race in space and there is no doubt whatsoever that all States, large and small, developed and developing, only stand to gain from it. The member States of the Conference on Disarmament can and indeed must make a substantial contribution to the serious consideration of this important initiative at the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly, if only for the simple reason that the Conference bears the main responsibility for drawing up measures to prevent an arms race in outer space.

In the course of the 1985 and 1986 sessions the Ad Hoc Committee on Outer Space has done a good deal of work to study and define issues connected with the prevention of an arms race in outer space. On some important issues concrete proposals were advanced and working papers were submitted which deserve serious and thorough consideration in future.

At previous plenary meetings and at today's meeting a number of delegations, including the delegations of the Soviet Union, Venezuela, Bulgaria, India and others, have given their assessment of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Outer Space. The Mongolian delegation on the whole shares these assessments and, not wishing to repeat them, simply wishes to point out that the discussion held in the Ad Hoc Committee provides even more striking confirmation of the need to undertake negotiations on the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as necessary, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.