

(Mr. Fan, China)

agreement on the comprehensive prohibition of space weapons can be concluded through negotiations. It is imperative to take advantage of the current favourable international climate to start substantive negotiations on the prevention of arms race in outer space as soon as possible. China has all along held that the exploration and utilization of outer space should serve only peaceful purposes and the well-being of mankind by promoting the economic, scientific and cultural development of all countries. China's commitment to the peaceful use of outer space is further exemplified by the fact that on 8 November 1988 the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopted a decision to accede to the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Our accession to the three conventions will help increase international co-operation and exchanges in space activities.

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Mr. VARGA (Hungary)

We consider that continued multilateral action is required for the prevention of an arms race in outer space. It is vital that the mandate issue should be overcome as expeditiously as possible and that the Outer Space Committee should start substantive work on improving the existing international legal régime governing outer space. The Committee could do useful work on the issue of prohibiting ASAT weapons and providing immunity to satellites in outer space. The proposal by the Soviet Union for the establishment of an outer space

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organization and an international inspectorate for verifying activities in outer space are issues which can provide for a sensible and useful task for the Committee and a good option for its deliberations.