

(Mr. Qian Jiadong, China)

shield for every sword, and a sword for every shield." What has happened in the past year further proves that it is impossible to eliminate weapons by developing a new type of weaponry, or to terminate the arms race by starting a new one. Development of space weapons can only further aggravate and escalate the arms race, bringing greater instability to our world. The efforts to stop an arms race in outer space have reached a crucial juncture when something must be done. Otherwise there will be no end of trouble for the future.

China has always held that outer space ought to be exclusively used for peaceful purposes, and the development of space technology should serve the benefit of all mankind. At the spring part of the last session the Chinese delegation submitted a working paper (CD/579) on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We proposed that at the present stage the "de-weaponization of outer space" be made the primary objective in our efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space. At the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Wu Xueqian, further proposed: "The United States and the Soviet Union should immediately stop the arms race in all its forms in the outer space. All countries with a space capability should refrain from developing, testing or deploying outer space weaponry. An international agreement on the complete prohibition and destruction of outer space weaponry should be concluded as soon as possible." We are prepared to work together with other delegations to look into all other relevant proposals.

We are pleased to see that after several years' efforts an ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space was finally established last summer and did some initial work. With an overwhelming majority in favour, and none against, the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the prevention of an arms race in outer space (40/87). Proceeding on the basis that has been laid down, we ought to establish an ad hoc committee this year at the earliest date to conduct substantive negotiations. In our view, an agreement on the mandate could be reached given a spirit of compromise and co-operation by all sides.

(Mr. Alfarargy, Egypt)

Although the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the NPT and the resolutions of the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly reflected once again international quasi-unanimity on the necessity to reach a treaty on a nuclear-test ban, to halt the nuclear-arms race, to achieve nuclear disarmament, to prevent nuclear war, and to prevent an arms race in outer space, and although those instruments urged the Conference on Disarmament to carry out its negotiating task in these fields, we still see a few States refusing this course of action adamantly. These States try to invoke irrelevant arguments and justifications to delay the implementation of such recommendations and resolutions by the Conference on Disarmament. We must face such a trend with determination. We must demonstrate the required political will to advance the work in the Conference.