

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

Our delegation is convinced that the Committee should concentrate its attention on and contribute to the elaboration of a treaty for the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space. We fully support the proposal made by the head of the Soviet delegation, Ambassador Issraelyan, concerning the setting up of an ad hoc working group to negotiate with the aim of reaching agreement and the text of such a treaty.

(Mr. Sani, Indonesia)

As to the agenda, my delegation has no problems with the draft as proposed by the secretariat. We agree with the inclusion of further measures to prevent an arms race in outer space as a new item on the agenda. We feel, however, that, in view of the limited time available, the Committee should determine carefully the order of priority and the time to be allotted to the discussion of each of the agenda items, in order that the Committee will indeed be able to make a worthwhile contribution to the second special session. Accordingly, the programme of work should be drawn up in such a way that the maximum amount of time is allotted to negotiations on items which, in the opinion of the Committee, have the best chance of producing concrete results to be submitted subsequently to the General Assembly at its second special session for consideration and, hopefully, for adoption, such as, for example, the comprehensive programme of disarmament.

(Mr. Ijewere, Nigeria)

Permit me now to offer some few comments on the inclusion of new items on our annual agenda. My country is one of those that has expressed deep concern about the increased militarization of outer space. The increase in the use of anti-satellite weapons, high-energy lasers and particle-beam weapons make outer space a battlefield of the future. In view of the fact that this development runs counter to the spirit and the letter of the outer space Treaty of 1967, which seeks to promote its peaceful uses for the benefit of mankind, my delegation believes that the subject needs to be given the status of consideration within the context of the priority items listed for examination in the Committee.