

(Mr. Yamada, Japan)

celestial bodies to representatives of other States parties on a basis of reciprocity. However, as I said earlier, the information to be provided under the Convention on Registration is limited. Article XII of the Outer Space Treaty, which was one of the key provisions seriously discussed in negotiating the Treaty, stipulates for nothing with respect to outer space other than celestial bodies. Therefore, those provisions are of only limited relevance in relation to verification. We need to see if these limited provisions are adequate to cope with the verification needs that arise from current space activities.

There have been truly remarkable developments in space technology compared to 1967 when the Outer Space Treaty was concluded. A large-scale space tracking radar can provide crucial information and a satellite in itself can apparently play an important role as a means of verification. Based on these changes in circumstances, it would be useful to examine what kind of technical verification means would be applicable to a multilateral verification system. Conversely, if we can identify available verification means, we may also be able to go on to see what kind of prohibiting provisions can be agreed on multilaterally.

One important proposal in this regard relates to the establishment of an ISMA (international satellite monitoring agency). There will be a number of legal, financial, and technical problems to be resolved on this proposal. However, my delegation shares the hope that such a proposal can contribute towards the solution of the verification issues, and it is keenly interested in seeing how the proposal is dealt with and developed in the future.

I have tried to set forth briefly the views of my delegation on the issues before us. As a country devoted to technological development for the peaceful use of outer space, we wish to continue to contribute to the deliberations in the CD on developing a sharper focus on verification and other problems, bearing in mind the technologies available to us.

I am hopeful that we will make substantial progress in our considerations this year under the able leadership of Ambassador Pugliese of Italy, the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Canada for organizing a very useful workshop on outer space in Montreal in May. As a participant, I would like to say how grateful I was to Ambassador Beesley for his personal attention to us.

Ever since the seventh century, the star festival has been observed all over Japan in July, that is today. The festival owes its origin to the old Chinese legend that the star Vega (the Weaver), who is separated by the Galaxy from the star Altair, her lover, is allowed to meet him only once a year, on this evening. The children make their wishes, while looking up at shooting stars. Let us keep our sky ever beautiful and romantic.