

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

In the second preambular paragraph, the Assembly recognized "the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes".

In the fourth preambular paragraph, it reaffirmed the will of all States "that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be exclusively for peaceful purposes".

In the sixth preambular paragraph, the Assembly reaffirmed, in particular, article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which stipulated that "States parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner".

In the following, seventh preambular paragraph, the General Assembly reaffirmed also paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly in which it is stated, as all will recall, that "in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty" on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

A little later, in the twelfth preambular paragraph, and this should follow from the seventh, the Assembly expressed its conviction that "further measures are needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space".

Further, in the sixteenth paragraph, the Assembly stated that it was "Aware of the various proposals submitted by Member States to the Committee on Disarmament, particularly concerning the establishment of a working group on outer space and its draft mandate which had been considered extensively by a contact group".

There is a foot-note here in which it is noted that from the date of commencement of the current session the working groups are to be known by another name. Of course, we know that we have already decided that they will be called ad hoc committees.

Lastly, the purpose of the eighteenth paragraph -- the last in the preamble -- is to express the Assembly's deep concern and disappointment that "although there was no objection, in principle, to the establishment without delay of such a working group, the Committee on Disarmament" -- now the Conference -- "has not thus far been enabled to reach agreement on an acceptable mandate for the working group during its 1983 session". The 10 operative paragraphs then follow. All of them are clearly important, but I shall confine myself at this point to quoting only four.

First of all, operative paragraph 2, in which the Assembly emphasized that "further effective measures to prevent an arms race in outer space should be adopted by the international community".

Operative paragraph 5 in which the Assembly called upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to "contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and to take immediate measures to prevent an arms race in outer space".