

(The President)

On item 5 of the agenda, "prevention of an arms race in outer space", the great importance which all groups attach to this item was very clear. One group expressed the view that the 1985 mandate was by no means exhausted and could and should form the basis for continued work in 1986. Another group expressed its wish that an ad hoc committee be established on this item with a mandate which took into account General Assembly resolution 40/87. Another group said that it would prefer a negotiating mandate. During consultations on this item the President was asked to provide a non-paper for a draft mandate, drawing on the 1985 mandate and the relevant paragraph (paragraph 9) in General Assembly resolution 40/87. This paper was produced and is dated 21 February and is entitled "President's non-paper: Item 5". It was examined by all groups.

One group stated that despite the fact that it would have preferred a full negotiating mandate, it was prepared to start work on the basis of the President's non-paper. A group reiterated its view that no change to the 1985 mandate was required, and that work could proceed on last year's mandate. Another group reiterated its position that work in 1986 on the basis of the 1985 mandate would not be acceptable. It would, however, be prepared to continue to consult on this item, including on the basis of the President's non-paper. It requested that this view be conveyed to next month's President and that further work proceed to advance this issue. A fourth group stated that it continued to be flexible on the mandate, although it would prefer that it reflect paragraph 9 of resolution 40/87. It would be prepared to consider any other reasonable suggestion.