

(Mr. Fan Guoxiang, China)

Outer space, a common heritage of the whole of mankind, should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. China is opposed to an arms race in outer space. We oppose it, no matter who conducts it. We have consistently advocated that the exploration and utilization of outer space must be carried out in the service of peace and of the economic, scientific and cultural development of all countries and for the benefit of the entire human race. China, the first inventor of ancient rockets, once made its contributions to human civilization and progress. Today, the Chinese people are also engaged in peaceful uses of outer space. Our space technology, though still at the stage of research, experiment and initial application, has already started its service in peaceful uses of outer space. China has already entered into co-operation and exchanges with some countries and international organizations in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space. China has launched and is going to launch a variety of applications satellites covering geodesy, geo-resources surveys, communications, broadcasting, meteorology, etc. They have contributed and will continue to contribute vigorously to China's economic modernization and to its economic, scientific and cultural exchanges with other countries. The Chinese people will do their best to this end.

Thanks to the able guidance of Ambassador Pugliese of Italy and the active participation of many delegations, the 1987 Ad hoc Committee on Outer Space has made some progress in its work. Through an extensive exchange of views, some issues have been clarified. This has contributed to a better understanding of the positions and views of all parties. This year, some delegations have submitted new proposals on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Meanwhile, the Ad hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament has also conducted deliberations on the issue of outer space, particularly on its priority position. There has been a deeper understanding of the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and a willingness to work actively for the realization of that goal.

Before concluding my statement, I wish also to avail myself of this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Ambassador Beesley of Canada and, through him, to the Government of Canada for the opportunity accorded to me to participate in the Outer Space Workshop in Montreal. The valuable efforts made by the Canadian delegation to promote the work of the Conference on Disarmament on preventing an arms race in outer space are recognized by all.