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(Mr. Erdembileg, Mongolia)

At today's plenary meeting, the Conference embarks upon the consideration of agenda item 5, prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Today as never before, the question of what must be done in order to eliminate the danger of nuclear catastrophe arises with exceptional acuteness.

The supreme representatives of the States Members of CMEA, meeting recently in Moscow, having expressed their firm conviction that no world problems, including the historic argument between socialism and capitalism, can be solved by military means, resolutely announced that there is no more important task today than the safeguarding of world peace and averting nuclear catastrophe. Priority is attached to ending the arms race, moving to arms reduction and maintaining the military-strategic equilibrium at progressively lower levels.

In this context the leaders of the socialist States also expressed the conviction that, with strict respect of the principle of equality and equal security, the nuclear arms race can be halted and States can embark upon the implementation of genuine nuclear disarmament measures. This requires political will and an honest, equal and constructive dialogue taking account of the security interests of all countries.

The participants in the Moscow meeting reiterated the extremely topical significance of such proposals of the socialist countries as that on the reaching of agreement on a general and complete nuclear test ban; on the prohibition of the militarization of outer space and the use of force in outer space and from outer space against the earth; and on the world-wide prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons. Other exceptionally important proposals include the proposal to conclude a treaty on mutual non-use of armed force and maintenance of peaceful relations between the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty and the States members of NATO, as well as the Soviet Union's appeal to other nuclear-weapon Powers which have not yet done so to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons.