

Mrs. THEORIN (Sweden)

Or how could the prevention of an arms race in outer space be ensured except through multilateral action? The international community has expressed its firm stand that the exploration and use of outer space must be for peaceful purposes and to the benefit of the whole of mankind.

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Continued multilateral action, as I have already mentioned, is required to ensure that outer space is used for peaceful purposes only. In the CD the programme of work has concentrated on three items, namely examination and identification of issues, existing agreements and proposals, and future initiatives. The existing legal régime is not sufficient to prevent an arms race in outer space. Additional measures should be identified.

The difficulty of arriving at workable definitions of ASAT weapons should not hinder us from trying to find practical solutions. One approach could be to ban the testing of ASAT weapons, which would be the same as formalizing a de facto moratorium. Such a ban could probably be reasonably well verified. A challenging goal could be to have - in a few years from now - a verifiable prohibition of ASAT weapons, through a comprehensive ban covering the development, testing, production, deployment and use of such weapons, on Earth in the atmosphere and in outer space.