

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

The determination of the Warsaw Treaty States to engage on this road found a renewed expression in their Declaration adopted at the Meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in Sofia on 24 October 1985 and circulated as an official document (CD/645) of the Conference on Disarmament. The States Members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization stated in this Declaration that "the principal objective of their foreign policy has been, and still is, the elimination of the threat of nuclear war, the lowering of the level of military confrontation and the evolution of international relations in the spirit of peaceful co-existence and détente". They pointed to the urgent need for the adoption of practical measures to halt the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, and to proceed to disarmament. The States participating in the Meeting further reiterated that "there is no type of weapon that they are unwilling to limit, reduce or withdraw from their arsenals and destroy forever under an agreement with the other States, while abiding by the principle of equality and equal security". Without entering into details, my delegation wishes to point out that the Sofia Declaration reflects also the position of principle of the Warsaw Treaty Organization on matters that are the subject of work by the CD.

This Declaration reaffirmed the commitment of the member States to a complete and general ban on nuclear-weapon tests, as well as their support for the USSR unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions, and called upon the United States to join it; expressed their determination to remove the danger of nuclear war, to put an end to the arms race on Earth, and prevent it in space by reaching agreement to ban all space strike weapons; pointed out that "in present-day conditions, the objective of a total ban on and elimination of chemical weapons, including their particularly dangerous binary version, acquires ever greater importance and urgency"; and further reaffirmed their conviction that "the States which do not possess or have nuclear arms on their territory are fully entitled to solid international legal guarantees that such weapons will not be used against them".

To prevent an arms race in outer space today means to overcome the largest and most dangerous obstacle in the way of a radical reduction of the nuclear arsenals, to achieving real nuclear disarmament. The proposals contained in the new Soviet programme for nuclear disarmament by the year 2000 have made the idea behind the plans to build anti-missile defence systems not only obsolete, but also completely useless. It is our considered view that the position of each State on the issue of the prevention of an arms race in outer space constitutes, at this stage, a litmus test for the sincerity of its yearning to achieve nuclear disarmament.

The Bulgarian delegation believes that the Conference should, without delay, set up an ad hoc committee on item 5 of its agenda. The mandate of that committee should be based on the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution 40/87, which was adopted as a whole with no dissenting vote.