

(Mr. Bayart, Mongolia)

The Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space is now about to wind up this year's work. As the Co-ordinator of the group of socialist countries, my delegation ventures to sum up in a preliminary way the results of the deliberations of the Ad hoc Committee on item 5 of the Conference's agenda for the year 1987.

The delegations of the socialist States, determined to block every possible means by which weapons could be stationed in space, have actively participated in and contributed to the work of the Ad hoc Committee during the 1987 session, by introducing proposals which took into account the views of other States. Here I wish to recall some of them: the Soviet Union introduced initiatives on the establishment of an international inspectorate to verify compliance with an international agreement on the prevention of stationing any weapons in space, studying the possibility of eliminating existing anti-satellite systems and ensuring immunity for artificial Earth satellites not carrying weapons of any kind on board, and prohibiting weapons of the "space-to-space", "space-to-Earth", and "Earth-to-space" types. The German Democratic Republic and Mongolia submitted a draft set of "Main provisions of a treaty on the prohibitions of anti-satellite weapons and on ways to ensure the immunity of space objects" which have just been introduced by Ambassador Rose; the German Democratic Republic proposed a structural discussion on item 3 of the programme of work of the Ad hoc Committee; and previous proposals tabled by Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and the Soviet Union were reaffirmed. The Ad hoc Committee has worked actively this year under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Pugliese of Italy.

However, we share the opinion of a number of delegations that the work of the Ad hoc Committee, which to a large extent repeated last year's discussions, has not made any tangible progress, despite the efforts of many delegations. This is obviously linked with the lack of new elements in the mandate and the programme of work. In fact the first two items in the programme of work, "Examination and identification of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space" and "Existing agreements relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space", have been thoroughly considered during the last two sessions. Giving careful thought to the fact that there is a limited number of international agreements constituting the international legal régime of outer space, the Ad hoc Committee has practically completed its work on the definition and identification of the existing bans and limitations. As a result it has been able to outline the areas which urgently require the elaboration of a new agreement or agreements.

During the discussions the overwhelming majority of delegations noted both the urgent need for maintaining and strengthening the existing legal régimes governing the activities of States in outer space -- first and foremost such an important one as the Soviet-United States ABM Treaty -- and