

(The President)

The prevention of an arms race in outer space is another urgent and complex issue and one that is on the agenda both of this Conference and the United States-USSR negotiations on nuclear and space arms. There is a compelling need and ample scope for this area to be a fruitful example of complementary work in the two forums. This Conference should establish an appropriate committee to identify and address the dimensions of the outer space issue that will maximize its contribution to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space.

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(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

The resolution in question, resolution 40/87, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" is, with reason, somewhat lengthy. In the preamble, it reaffirms the wish of all States that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, that they "shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries" and that they "shall be the province of all mankind". It also reaffirms the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, particularly those of articles III and IV, and those of paragraph 80 of the 1978 Final Document, in which it was stated that "in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit" of the Treaty I have just mentioned.

The General Assembly has also expressed its grave concern "at the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space and in particular by the impending threat of exacerbating the current state of insecurity by developments that could further undermine international peace and security" and create obstacles to "the peaceful uses of outer space".

As to the operative part of the resolution, it would seem useful fundamentally to emphasize the following: