

space technology as an instrument for combatting environmental problems, particularly those of the developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Canada considers that the Committee on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space plays an important role in fostering international cooperation and in creating the international legal and political framework to support the increased use of space for the benefit of mankind. We strongly support therefore the work of the Committee. We recognize as well the importance of international cooperation in space. In Montreal last May Canada signed a 10 year cooperative agreement with the European Space Agency, which builds on the formal cooperation between Canada and ESA begun 10 years earlier. As well, at this very moment in Vancouver, Canadian and Japanese officials are meeting to participate in the first Canada-Japan space panel, created by our two countries to improve space cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Canada shares the concerns of several delegations about the possible extension of an arms race into outer space. We remain committed to preventing this, and believe that the proper forum for negotiations to prevent such an arms race is the conference on disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

As we review the work of the Committee on Outer Space for this year it has become clear to us that some significant progress has been achieved. On the key aspects of use of nuclear power sources in space, substantive discussion took place in both the Scientific and Technical and Legal Sub-committees, which I will comment in more detail later.

My delegation supports the Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly endorse the initiative of international space organizations and bodies to designate 1992 as an international space year. Canada is planning activities for 1992 that will build on our interest and expertise in remote sensing, and we look forward to cooperating with other countries in the International Space Year.

The Legal Sub-committee addressed its new agenda item. We welcome the consensus that was achieved on establishing a working group to consider the issue of outer space benefits. Canada recognizes the importance of the new item and will work