

(Mr. Tellalov, Bulgaria)

For three years now discussions have been going on in the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. There are different views as to what has been done and what needs to be done. It is clear that the present legal régime raises some barriers to an arms race in outer space, but that in many crucial areas this régime is far from complete. Hence, on the one hand, existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, must be strictly adhered to. On the other hand, the work of the Ad hoc Committee must be broadened and deepened with a view to considering specific measures and undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

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(Mr. Ahmad, Pakistan)

The question of prevention of an arms race in outer space has been on the agenda of the CD since 1982. It has been identified by the General Assembly as a priority item. However, the discussions which have been held in the plenary, and since 1985 in the Ad hoc Committee on Outer Space, have been largely confined to an academic discussion of some of the issues which this problem raises. This is so largely because of the inadequacy of the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee, which does not permit it to embark upon the practical work of negotiating an agreement or agreements for the prevention of an arms race in this zone. As long as a suitable mandate which would enable the Committee to exercise its negotiating responsibility is denied to it, the prospects of making meaningful progress will remain limited. The Pakistan delegation therefore regrets that the efforts made by the Group of 21 at the beginning of the session to improve the mandate of the Ad hoc Committee were not fruitful because of the inflexible position taken by one group. My delegation is, however, prepared to work constructively and make its modest contribution to the consideration of this issue in this Committee under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Puuliese of Italy.