

Mr. AUNG THANT (Burma)

The impending threat of an arms race in space makes it absolutely necessary and imperative to take urgent and timely measures for the prevention of such an arms race before it is too late. An arms race in space will add a new dimension to the prevention of nuclear war, and will certainly make it doubly difficult to reduce the risks of nuclear war. This will be the fifth year that the Conference has dealt with this agenda item in an ad hoc committee. My delegation feels that the useful work thus far carried out in the ad hoc committee in the past four years, and later developments in this field, should be adequately reflected in the mandate and the programme of work of the ad hoc committee. Previous years have seen the belated establishment of an ad hoc committee on agenda item 5. We wish to see the speedy establishment of an ad hoc committee on agenda item 5 so that it may start its substantive work at the earliest possible date.

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Mr. FAN (China)

While people are concerned with the continuing modernization of nuclear weapons and delivery systems, the arms race is also extending into outer space. Consequently, efforts for the maintenance of peace and the promotion of disarmament can in no way be slackened, and disarmament still remains an arduous and long-term task.

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