

(Mr. Varkonyi, Hungary)

to elaborating concrete measures and international agreements. We would find it appropriate for the Committee to start devising a system that would guarantee the safety of satellites in orbit around the Earth, that is, the immunity necessary for their smooth operation. It would be equally useful for the Committee to consider establishing a system of verification to guarantee the peaceful character of research and activities in space.

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(Mr. Kosin, Yugoslavia)

It is for that reason that it is necessary to strengthen multilateral approaches, and the role of multilateral fora which are irreplaceable in this process. Here I have in mind the central role played by the United Nations, and more specifically the role of our Conference as the single multilateral negotiating body. After almost 10 years in its present constitution, and bearing in mind the long-lasting and unfavourable, rather than favourable, international circumstances in which it has conducted its deliberations, our Conference has secured continuity of dialogue. It has endeavoured to lay down a framework for the attainment of the objectives for which it was established, by carrying out, inter alia, a substantive exchange of views and very useful preparatory work. All in all, the Conference has had a positive effect and contributed to better understanding of disarmament problems and to the fostering of awareness of the need for performing the tasks entrusted to it.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that the Conference has been unable even to start negotiations on nuclear disarmament, although this was one of the priorities agreed upon in the Final Document of SSOD-I. Besides, the inclusion of these issues in the agenda of the Conference as a negotiating body presupposes not only acceptance of the competence of the Conference, but also a negotiating approach in the broadest sense of the word. My delegation cannot agree with any argument denying the right of this Conference to negotiate nuclear disarmament issues as key problems of global security. The special responsibility of the major Powers is evident. It is also legitimate to expect that all countries, the nuclear Powers above all, should contribute to eliminating the nuclear danger which is equal for all.

The Yugoslav delegation deems unacceptable the marginalization of the Conference in preventing an arms race in outer space, as the development of our civilization in the coming decades will depend on the peaceful uses of outer space.

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