

(Mr. Sy, Senegal)

However, the new weapons are not confined to undermining the system of mutual deterrence so carefully developed by the Superpowers. Those weapons circumvent some weapons control agreements, in particular the 1972 anti-Ballistic-Missile Treaty.

Once again the dynamics of the quantitative arms race and technical progress has overcome policies aimed at the limitation of weapons. It is because these developments promise nothing positive that many delegations both at the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly have expressed their concern and requested that measures should be taken to halt this danger.

In this regard, it must be noted that the General Assembly adopted by a very large majority a resolution whereby it expressed its conviction of the need to take further measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. It therefore requested the Committee on Disarmament to set up an ad hoc working group on the question at the beginning of its 1984 session with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in all its aspects in outer space.

Such a recommendation, which my delegation entirely endorses, should be implemented as rapidly as possible by the Conference on Disarmament.

Unfortunately, it seems that in spite of the proposals submitted with a view to undertaking negotiations on the prevention of the arms race in outer space, the Conference has not yet reached a satisfactory solution. Nevertheless, in view of the urgency of the question, prompt action is necessary.

As the history of the talks on nuclear weapons limitation has shown, it is easier to prevent the introduction of new weapons than to eliminate those already existing. Time is pressing, and my delegation hopes that the Conference will not let slip this opportunity, an opportunity which might not recur.