

**Intervention by Ambassador Masood Khan,  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations  
at the Open-Ended Meeting on PAROS  
Geneva: 16 August 2005**

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Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate your initiative to organize this meeting.

We agree with you that it is important to evolve a common approach to prevent arms race in outer space. To discuss this issue comprehensively the right course of action will be to establish CD's Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS). Such a Committee can address all relevant issues and draft a possible treaty which has not happened in the past.

We commend the combined endeavour of China and the Russian Federation to keep the issue alive. Instead of losing time, you have kept a sharp focus on this issue. You have produced substantive papers and catalyzed interactive dialogue on the adequacies of the existing legal instruments, the need for strengthening the existing regime, and the rationale for a new treaty.

Identification of the possible elements for an international agreement, compilation of comments, and discussion on definitions as well as verification are helping this process along.

We look forward to the tabling of a new resolution on "Transparency and CMBs in Outer Space" by the Russian Federation in the forthcoming UN General Assembly.

We agree with China that a preventative approach is necessary for stemming a disastrous arms race in outer space.

There is indeed a broad consensus on the PAROS issue. This is evident from the impressive body of literature on the subject that is being published. In this regard UNIDIR's publications circulated today are useful inputs.

UN General President Jean Ping has established a link between negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on fissile materials and prevention of arms race in outer space.

The right workshop for PAROS and other security/disarmament issues is the CD. That workshop should begin its work. Meanwhile, the effort of the Russian Federation and China is really commendable.

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We thank you for your persistence and consistency. Your non-papers circulated today have stimulated discussion which has energized this CD chamber.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.