

Egypt, 13 Feb '64

Madam President,

Egypt has consistently exhibited a notable concern with the issue of preventing an arms race in outer space. It has constantly advocated that the exploration of and use of outer space should solely be directed for peaceful purposes and would be carried out for the benefit of mankind and in the interest of all States, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development. Our conviction emanates from a solid belief that preventing an arms race in outer space would undoubtedly, avert any danger to international peace and security. During the 61st Session of the General Assembly, Egypt introduced Resolution 61/58 titled "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space," a yearly resolution submitted in rotation with Sri Lanka. We are pleased that 178 Member States of the United Nations voted in favor of this resolution.

Madam President,

Egypt reaffirms the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and expresses its readiness to contribute to this common objective. We reiterate our recognition that although the current regime applicable to outer space plays an important role in that environment, there is nevertheless a need to consolidate and reinforce that legal regime and enhance its effectiveness, as it does not fully guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space and its weaponization. Consequently, we believe that negotiation for the conclusion of an international, comprehensive, and legally binding agreement that tackles the issue of preventing an arms race in outer space remains an essential objective. Such an agreement would unquestionably, fill the existing gap which the current legal regime lacks. In the meantime however, it is imperative that strict compliance be exercised with already existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, whether bilateral or multilateral agreements. In this respect, I would like to highlight that Paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures and appropriate international negotiations should be taken. Furthermore, numerous General Assembly Resolutions have invited the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad-hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to conducting negotiations for the conclusion of a multilateral agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We believe that such a step would be a positive way forward.

Madam President,

Given the evident growing use of outer space, there is accordingly, a growing need for increased transparency and information sharing on the part of the international community, particularly from those States that attain space capabilities. General Assembly Resolution 61/75 clearly emphasizes the increasing need for transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities as a

means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. We agree with this argument and call upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to exhibit greater transparency in their outer space activities so as to positively contribute to the overall objective of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and preventing an arms race. We also urge them to refrain from taking any actions that would be contrary to that objective and to other relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation.

Madam President,

In conclusion, Egypt would like to emphasize the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space and hope that concrete results would emerge from those efforts as soon as possible. As the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, the Conference on Disarmament has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects. The delegation of Egypt will spare no effort to support any serious attempts towards achieving this objective.

I thank you.