

Algeria  
Ambassador Idriss Jazaïry  
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Mr. President, the delegation of Algeria would like to take up today the question of prevention of arms race in outer space. At the outset I would like to thank our guest Ms. Giannella, the representative of the EU, for her highly related observation on this topic and which she made on behalf of the EU and that is in line with the rules of the CD. I should also like to say in the beginning of my statement that this issue, which is an item on the agenda of the CD, is highly important in view of its direct relevancy to global security and peace and its relevance to our daily life. Outer space is playing an increasingly important role in numerous sectors of economic, social and scientific life. This role has also increased with recent science and technological developments.

Therefore, outer space activities require an atmosphere of security, transparency and trust. Algeria has the ambition of using outer space to meet its development needs. It is therefore attached to the exclusive use and exploration of outer space as our common human heritage for strictly peaceful purposes so as to serve the interest of all and preserve international peace, stability and cooperation in line with the principles of international rules and obligation. Particularly the General Assembly declaration of 1963 and the 1967 convention on the principles regulating the exploration and use of outer space by states for peaceful purposes. Such noble principles and objective will not be able to resist the burden of any form of an arms race or any hostile manifestation in outer space. The militarization for outer space is a source of concerns in view of the high risk involved. It could lead to imbalances and create a new dynamic that would lead to an arms race with highly negative repercussion on international peace and security. Not to mention the negative effects on the economic and social fields. We should like to recall here the working paper submitted by G21 CD/1893, dated the 14 September 2010. That working paper express the concerns of the group with regards to the negative effects of the development and deployment of anti ballistic defense system and the development of advanced military technologies that could be deployed in outer space. Mr. President, Algeria, like a number of other countries consider that the current legal system governing outer space have a number of deficiencies and is not sufficient to prevent an arms race in outer space. Therefore a collective effort is required within the framework of the CD to strengthening the current legal framework and deal with any gaps in it. That is why Algeria supports the creation of a CD working group as urged by the General Assembly resolution 65/44 regarding the prevention of an arms race in outer space and that resolution was approved by the vast majority of states. Such a body should be mandated to reach multilateral agreement with effective international legally binding norms to prohibit the deployment of all types of weapons as well as to prohibit the use or threat or use of force in outer space. As there is no consensus currently on this issue we consider that the mandate included in the CD/1864 a good basis to start our work. In this regard we can build on already exiting efforts and initiatives. Like the rest of the G21 Algeria welcomes the Chinese-Russian initiative to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space and prohibit the use or threat of use of force against objects in outer space. Algeria has also taken note of the Code of Conduct proposed by the European Union and which may not be within the scope of our CD, but aims at promoting transparency and streamlining all activities in outer space particularly those who have civilian character. We consider therefore that negotiation in a multilateral forum is the best way to draft up measures and rules that can respond to all parties.

I thank you Sir.

