



Ständige Vertretung Deutschlands
bei der Abrüstungskonferenz
Mission Permanente d'Allemagne
auprès de la Conférence du Désarmement
Permanent Mission of Germany to
the Conference on Disarmament

STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON

1. "PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE" (PAROS)

2. CD WORK PROGRAM

GENEVA, 30 JUNE 2005

1. PAROS

The rapid technological development and the political changes of the past years have made the outer space an important area of preventive arms control. The importance of the civil and commercial use of outer space as well as the dependence of highly industrialized societies on systems based in outer space, especially in the spheres of communication, navigation, environmental protection, weather forecast and monitoring is growing. At the same time, military use of outer space plays a growing role, too.

In view of these developments, framework regulations for the reliable civil as well as legitimate military use of the outer space have become necessary in order to avoid outer space becoming an insecure area. Arms control and disarmament are not ends in themselves, they are tools to enhance security. The existing legal framework, only prohibiting the deployment of weapons of mass destruction, military bases and nuclear test explosions in outer space, seems insufficient and requires amendments.

Germany has clearly declared itself together with the overwhelming majority of the UN member states, against deploying any kind of weapon in outer space and is in favour of starting discussions and possibly negotiations on the conclusion of an international "Agreement on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space" at the Conference on Disarmament as soon as possible.

As reiterated in Res. 59/65, the CD, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of such a multilateral agreement and is invited to complete the examination and updating of the mandate contained in its decision (CD/1125) of 13 February 1992 and to establish an Ad Hoc Committee.

Against this background, Germany reiterates its support for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to deal with the prevention of an arms race in outer space as contained in para. 4 of the revised A5 proposal (CD/1693/Rev. 1).

Furthermore, Germany welcomes any effort in this regard, as e.g. the Russian-Chinese working paper (CD/1679) entitled "Possible elements for a future international legal agreement on the prevention of the deployment of weapons in outer space, the threat or use of force against outer space objects" as well as the different non-papers on aspects relevant to a possible future agreement which could be used as a basis for further substantive discussion on this subject.

2. CD Work Program

Looking back on four years of work in the Conference on Disarmament I consider it a privilege that I was able, during the German CD Presidency in 2002, to participate in the elaboration of the A5 proposal, which was introduced in the CD in its first version under the German CD Presidency.

This cross group proposal for a CD program of work has reached the largest support any proposal for a CD work program has so far ever reached. We all know that a very small number of countries is not prepared to join a consensus on that proposal or at least to bring forward amendments to make it acceptable to them. It is worthwhile to recall that the A5 proposal was introduced open for amendments. I was encouraged to hear in the course of our formal plenaries on the four core issues before the CD - negotiations on an FMCT; Nuclear Disarmament; PAROS; Negative Security Assurances - the continuing wide support for the A5 proposal.

Germany continues to support the A5 proposal as the only formal proposal for a CD work program before the CD and continues to believe that it is a genuine compromise which should be acceptable to all Member Countries of the CD, if there really is the political willingness - as very often stated in this room - to overcome the stalemate of the CD and bring it back to serious work in conformity with its mandate as a negotiating and not a deliberate body.

Germany remains open for other compromise solutions if they command consensus, for example the efforts of the Netherlands CD Presidency contained in the so-called Food for Thought Paper.

The CD stands for multilateralism in the area of disarmament and arms control. The political basis for multilateralism in international politics is the readiness of a state to take into account other states interests and positions in defining its own position and in searching common solutions for outstanding issues. It is very often stated in this room that the security interests of states are of a special character. This is true but this cannot be used as a pretext for inflexibility or a "either my position or nothing" behaviour. Germany is convinced that the A5 proposal for a work program of the CD takes into account the security interests of all member countries of the CD. If all member states of the CD would sincerely transform into reality their often stated political interest for genuine effective multilateralism in the area of disarmament and arms control we could and would agree on a work program for the Conference on Disarmament.