

**STATEMENT ON
“PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE”
BY THE DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA TO
THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
AT THE CD INFORMAL MEETING
THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2005**

Mr. President,

At the outset, Malaysia would like to associate itself with the statement made earlier by Ethiopia, on behalf of the Group of 21.

2. Since the first human mission to outer space in 1961 and to the moon in 1965, a number of developments have taken place in the field of space technology including those of defence and military purposes. In view of the current development of intensifying research and tests on space-based weapons and weapon systems by those with the most advanced space capabilities, there is a pressing need for the Conference to address the issue of an arms race in outer space.

3. The Fifty-Ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2004 adopted Resolution 59/65 on the “Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space” by an overwhelming majority, inviting the CD again to re-establish the ad hoc committee on the PAROS, and recognising the Conference’s primary role in the negotiation of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. A number of 178 countries voted for the resolution and not a single country objected to it. This demonstrates the common aspiration and urgent demand of the international community to prevent an arms race in outer space.

Mr. President,

4. Malaysia is of the view that while existing international legal instruments on outer space, such as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, prohibit the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, none of them completely ban the testing, deployment and use of other weapons or weapon systems. Under the present day conditions, the existing measures and instruments

are inadequate to prevent an arms race in outer space. We firmly believe that only a legal instrument prohibiting the deployment of weapons in outer space and the prevention of the threat or use of force against outer space objects can eliminate the emerging threat of the weaponization of outer space.

5. In line with paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the 13th NAM Summit, Malaysia would like to reiterate its support for the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on PAROS. The Conference has examined a number of important issues pertaining to the prevention of an arms race in outer space through this Ad Hoc Committee, established by the Conference from 1985 to 1994. Since 1994, however, the CD has not been able to re-establish this Ad Hoc Committee, owing to lack of agreement on its Programme of Work.

6. Concerning the proposed instruments on PAROS, Malaysia is of the view that in addition to the elements proposed in document CD/1679 dated 27 June 2002 the elements of cooperation and assistance for peaceful uses should be among its salient features as well. It is also suggested that, as a further confidence building measure, there should be a moratorium on the testing of all kinds of weapons and on the deployment of weapons in outer space.

Mr. President,

7. In conclusion, Malaysia would like to reiterate that an arms race in outer space should be prevented through a legally binding instrument. It must be recognised that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and should be explored and utilised only for peaceful purposes. If left unchecked, the intensification of military activities in outer space could trigger off an arms race that would be detrimental to the cause of peace and the future of mankind.

Thank you.