

outer space found positive response of some delegations. In this connection, the concept of "open outer space" was further elaborated by one delegation belonging to the Group of Eastern European and other states. It was proposed that this concept should become a subject of consideration at the Conference on Disarmament. In the view of that delegation the key elements that could form the basis of a future multilateral agreement on confidence-building and predictability measures in space activities of States should include the following measures: 1) the strengthening of the 1975 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space; 2) the elaboration of "rules of the road" - "a code of conduct"; 3) the use of space-based monitoring equipment in the interest of the international community; and 4) the establishment of an International Space Inspectorate. The same delegation suggested that the elaboration of a set of confidence-building measures, transparency and predictability could be the most realistic initial step to keep outer space free from weapons. It circulated at the Committee a working paper entitled "The concept of confidence-building and predictability measures in space activities of States" (CD/OS/WP.45) which had integrated the ideas previously advanced at the Committee.

46. On the question of the functioning of the Registration Convention some delegations reiterated their proposals on the strengthening of the régime established by the Convention. They observed that by providing specific information about the nature and functions of objects launched into space, the Convention constituted an indispensable database for any subsequent development designed to generate confidence in the uses of outer space. These delegations also indicated that the changes in the régime should apply on two levels, one being the scope of the information to be provided and the other the timeliness. Additional parameters and information should be added to the items already present in article IV of the Convention and to that effect a duly mandated Expert Group under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Committee should be entrusted with the responsibility to devise those criteria.

47. Some delegations asserted that the need for data bases was felt by all delegations and the Registration Convention was a source that was now realised to be inadequate. They recalled that several proposals for the extension of data bases relating to space activities had been put forward by delegations from all Groups. Nothing in the Registration Convention prevented the CD or an expert group set up to assist the work of the Ad Hoc Committee as had been proposed by a number of delegations, from examining the information contained in the declarations under the Convention, which was a public registry.