

space, as well as the 1972 Treaty on the limitation of Antiballistic Missile Systems are fully honoured, strengthened and extended as necessary in the light of recent technological advances. It further invited the United Nations Secretary-General and the Conference on Disarmament to explore the ways and means of bringing satellites for military purposes under international control, particularly when it puts at stake the security of the non-aligned countries. In this connection, it called upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to adhere strictly to the existing legal restrictions and limitations on space weapons, including those contained in the Outer Space Treaty and the 1972 Soviet Union-United States Treaty on Antiballistic Missiles, and to refrain from taking any measures aimed at developing, testing or deploying weapons and weapon-systems in outer space.

36. Other delegations stressed that proposals, beside the basic criterion of usefulness should be judged in terms of their contribution to international peace and security and of their verifiability and they questioned the credibility and the balance of proposals contained in paragraph 35 linked to selective and partial approaches.

37. Some delegations, while noting that the Ad Hoc Committee was still at an exploratory stage of its work, considered that some ideas that had been put forward deserved study, such as the possibility of multilateralizing the provisions of existing bilateral agreements relating to the immunity of satellites, the role which the international monitoring of satellites might play, the possibility of placing constraints on some elements of anti-satellite activity, consistent with the security interests of all States, and a "rules-of-the-road" agreement for space. Some delegations also stressed the importance of, and made proposals for, confidence-building measures and the need for transparency in space activities. They also mentioned as worthy of consideration the elaboration of a code of conduct.

38. Other delegations held that the Ad Hoc Committee had passed the exploratory stage of its work and had exhausted the consideration of the first two points of its programme of work, it having been clearly established that the central question that the Committee should consider under agenda item 5 was the identification of concrete measures to prevent, in a general and comprehensive manner, an arms race in outer space.

39. Referring to proposals for banning the use of force in outer space, immunizing satellites from attack, immunizing satellite ground stations from attack and banning anti-satellite weapons, one delegation held that such proposals were either redundant or perhaps even prejudicial to the legal controls that were already in place. In its view, all uses of force except in self-defence were currently prohibited by law, all satellites and the ground stations associated with such satellites were already protected from attack except in cases of self-defence, the existing legal régime placed many restraints on the nature, deployment and uses of ASATs, and a comprehensive ASAT ban would raise many complex problems.

40. Various delegations recalled, however, that these legal restraints were not comprehensive enough to prevent the emergence of non-nuclear ASAT weapons in outer space and should, therefore, be supplemented by agreements which would preclude the introduction of such weapons in that environment.