

surveillance activities should be entrusted to an international agency. The view was also expressed that, in the interim, space powers should give assurances to non-aligned and neutral States against the discriminatory and inequitable use of satellites.

9. Delegations of a group of socialist countries continued to believe that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and that, consequently, its exploration and use should be preserved exclusively for peaceful purposes in order to promote the scientific, economic and social development of all countries. They stressed the overriding importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space. They once again pointed, however, to the impending danger of the extension of the arms race to outer space which would, in their view, step up the arms race in other areas and make reductions in nuclear strategic arsenals impossible. In this respect, these delegations expressed serious concern at the continuing implementation of the SDI programme, which had, reportedly, entered a stage of planning to carry out specific tests and deploy some components of a BMD system, both on Earth and in outer space. These delegations were of the view that the stage of exploring the problem of preventing an arms race in outer space had been passed and that the Ad Hoc Committee should proceed to more practical and concrete work. In that connection, they welcomed the statement by the President of the Conference at the time of the Committee's re-establishment. They believed that the most important aspect of the problem of preventing an arms race in outer space in the present circumstances was preventing the introduction of weapons in space through the prohibition of space-strike weapons. Their understanding of the term was that it included: first, space-based ABM systems of any principle of action, second, space-based systems of any principle of action designed to strike from space targets in the atmosphere or on the surface of the Earth and, third, systems of any principle of action and however based to strike space objects. Accordingly, they pointed to the wide-ranging character of the concept of space-strike-weapons, which, as seen from the proposals for respective definitions advanced by delegations of socialist and non-aligned States (CD/OS/WP.13/Rev.1 and CD/OS/WP.14/Rev.1 and Add.1), covered all possible threats to destroy, damage or interfere with the normal functioning of objects in space. They considered that the prohibition of such weapons would be an effective and secure way to prevent all possibilities for the introduction of weapons in outer space. In this connection they recalled that one State had declared and observed a moratorium on the first launching of anti-satellite weapons into outer space. These delegations noted that, although satellites were being used in a variety of support missions and were playing an important role in the strategic relationship, there had been no weapons permanently deployed in outer space up to the present time. They also observed that ballistic missiles having their launching sites and targets situated on Earth, were not space strike weapons either. They underlined the importance of assuring that the non-deployment of weapons in space would be effectively verified and to that end supported the establishment of an international inspectorate, as discussed below in paragraph 45.

10. Some delegations, while attaching utmost importance to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space, stated that for 30 years space had appeared as an appropriate environment for national security activities like the Earth and the atmosphere. They stressed that the issue of the role of the military uses of space in the maintenance of international peace and security had to be considered thoroughly. They noted that military systems deployed in