

were not in favour of this approach since, in their view, it did not give an accurate picture of all the threats confronting space objects and also overlooked other significant factors of the military and strategic situation relevant to outer space.

33. Various delegations discussed proposals concerning the prohibition of anti-satellite weapons and the protection of satellites. It was suggested that one possible structure for an instrument on the subject would be in the form of a general treaty with specific protocols applicable to different categories of satellites. Reference was made to the suggestion that, in order to assure the verifiability of treaty commitments, untested anti-satellite systems could be prohibited, i.e., those capable of attacking satellites in high orbit. Commenting on proposals for the protection of satellites, it was noted that it would first be necessary to establish as clearly as possible within the context of existing international law and established international practice which satellites perform functions that are in the common interest, what these common interests are and how these satellites contribute to them, following which it would be necessary to identify how these satellites could be protected. In this regard it was also recalled that a proposal had been made that active discussion be entered into on measures to protect from attack all satellites -- and their associated ground stations -- that contribute to strategic stability and to verification of arms control arrangements. Another view was that a treaty on the subject should: ban the use of force against any space object; prohibit the deliberate destruction, damage or interference with the normal functioning of space objects; proscribe the development, production or deployment of ASAT weapons; and provide for the destruction under international control of any existing ASAT weapons. Some delegations commented in detail on a wide range of means that were available to interfere with the functioning of satellites which, in their view, demonstrated that in the examination of proposals to prohibit ASAT systems it was clearly necessary to take into account that the concept involved much more than weapons systems specifically designed and intended to destroy satellites.

34. Commenting on proposals for the elaboration of an agreement on the immunity of space objects, some delegations noted that the majority of satellites perform military missions and held that to grant them immunity would be tantamount to legitimizing the military uses of space. In their opinion, any move to grant immunity to space objects should be accompanied by a strengthening of the 1975 Registration Convention to assure that the functions and purposes of protected space objects are clear. It was suggested that the Convention should include provisions to verify the accuracy of the information provided thereunder and that the verification of the nature of space objects could be carried out at the launching sites.

35. With reference to the proposals contained in paragraphs 28, 33 and 34, many delegations recalled that the Harare Declaration adopted at the Eighth Non-aligned Summit called on the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations urgently to conclude an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent the extension of an arms race in all its aspects into outer space and thus enhance the prospects of co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. In particular, they stressed the urgency of halting the development of anti-satellite weapons, the dismantling of the existing systems, the prohibition of the introduction of new weapon systems into outer space and of ensuring that the existing treaties safeguarding the peaceful uses of outer