

3. Existing proposals and future initiatives on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

In carrying out its work, the Ad Hoc Committee will take into account developments which have taken place since the establishment of the Committee in 1985."

In that connection, the Chairman made the following statement:

"... I wish to recall that in carrying out this programme of work consideration will be given to the declaration made by the President of the Conference on Disarmament for the month of February, on the occasion of the adoption of the mandate ... with the understanding that the programme of work covers the consideration of proposals for measures aimed at the prevention of an arms race in outer space."

7. The Ad Hoc Committee agreed that in discharging the tasks set forth in its mandate, it would give equal treatment to the subjects covered therein. Accordingly, the Committee further agreed to allocate the same number of meetings to each of those subjects, namely, issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, existing agreements and existing proposals and future initiatives. At the last substantive meeting, some delegations took the opportunity to sum up their positions.

A. Examination and identification of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space

8. Many delegations, reiterating that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and should be reserved exclusively for peaceful uses to promote the scientific, economic and social development of all nations, stressed the overriding importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space. They recalled that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried out in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and mutual understanding. They stated that military competition between the two major powers was being extended into outer space, leading to the development, testing and possible deployment of weapons systems and their components adaptable for use in or from space. In their view, the introduction of weapons into space would result in an irreversible competition in the field of space weaponry which would have dangerous consequences for international peace and security, give the arms race a qualitatively new dimension, undermine existing agreements and jeopardize the disarmament process as a whole. It would also, in their opinion, create obstacles to the peaceful uses of outer space to promote scientific, economic and social development. They, therefore, believed that the priority task of the Ad Hoc Committee should be the immediate prohibition of the testing, production and deployment of weapons systems and their components adaptable for use in, towards, or from space. To that end, in their opinion, attention should focus on the question of the measures that should be adopted. In that connection, they noted the significance of the statement made by the President of the Conference at the time of the re-establishment of the Committee. These delegations also pointed to the military uses of space that were already taking place as an extension of weapons systems on Earth. In that connection, it was noted that information gathered by reconnaissance and surveillance satellites had been used in support of military operations against developing countries. The view was expressed that to guard against such uses, satellite reconnaissance and