

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."

8. With regard to the organization of work, the Ad Hoc Committee agreed that it would give equal treatment to the subjects covered by its mandate and specified in its programme of work. Accordingly, the Committee 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.

9. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee was governed by the mandate which aims at the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

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

10. During the debates in the Committee, member States had an opportunity to exchange views and express positions on different subjects relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Many delegations defined the subjects discussed, inter alia, as follows: determination of the scope and objectives of multilateral work under the agenda item; the status of outer space as the common heritage of mankind which should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes; the absence at present of weapons in space; the relationship between the prevention of an arms race in outer space and arms limitation and disarmament measures in other areas; the role of the bilateral negotiations and their interaction with the multilateral activities in this field; the identification of the functions performed by space objects, and of the threats confronting them; vulnerability and immunity of satellites; their role and use for purposes of reliable verification; a concept of a comprehensive international verification system; questions relating to compliance and the need for information on how outer space is being used and on national space programmes of military significance; the need for identification and elaboration of mutually agreed legal terms; examination of sufficiency and adequacy of the existing legal régime; various approaches to reach a common understanding of what the existing legal norms do with regard to outer space activities; and functioning of the existing legal instruments.

11. There was general recognition of the importance of the bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United