

45. Some delegations, outlining their general approach to the consideration of proposals relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, stated that, in their view, a proposal should meet three criteria. First, the proposal should apply equally to all parties. Second, it should be verifiable. Third, there was the question whether the proposal, even if it applied equally and was verifiable, would, if implemented, enhance stability and security. These delegations were of the opinion that all of the proposals on this subject must meet those criteria.

46. Some delegations questioned the validity of the notion of stability put forward by nuclear-weapon States and their allies as a criterion to assess the need for and desirability of measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. In their view, it was an integral element of strategic concepts and doctrines that reflected the narrow security perceptions of the two alliances vis-à-vis each other. These delegations believed that questions relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space should be considered in a much broader perspective taking full account of the concerns and interests of non-aligned and neutral countries.

47. In connection with this statement, some delegations recalled that their position concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space takes fully into account the interests of all countries and peoples and had nothing to do with the "narrow security perceptions" mentioned above.

48. Other delegations reiterated that the criteria used by them in implementing their efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space were as follows:

- that outer space is the common heritage of all mankind;
- that the exploration and use of outer space should be preserved for exclusively peaceful purposes in order to promote the scientific, economic and social development of all countries.

Furthermore, in their view, none of their strategic concepts or doctrines were at variance with these criteria.

49. In the opinion of many delegations, the consideration of the proposals put forward before the Ad Hoc Committee had shown that there were areas of agreement on a number of major aspects of the problem and that, consequently, there was a good basis for pursuing the elaboration of an agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space. Many other delegations were of the view that the discussion, while useful, had been general and preliminary in nature. Some pointed out that for future discussions proposals should be elaborated and refined.