

unknown, were not generic tasks that could be given immediately to international entities. One of them further noted that the ABM Treaty, the Outer Space Treaty and the Registration Convention, constituted significant elements of this Treaty régime. This delegation believed, moreover, that ill-conceived arms control proposals actually might be dangerous and, if implemented, destabilizing because they could circumvent the development or compromise the effectiveness of strategic defence capabilities that threaten no one. This delegation further stated that although strategic deterrence is accomplished today primarily through reliance on the threat of offensive nuclear weapons, it believes that it would be preferable to rely instead on a balance of offensive retaliatory forces and defensive weapons which threaten no one. This delegation stated that it was convinced that defences that are militarily effective, survivable and cost effective at the margin, would create a safer future in which nuclear missiles become less and less capable of threatening destructive attack. Accordingly, this delegation noted that it would continue to explore the possibility that greater reliance on effective defences against ballistic missiles could, in the future, provide a safer, more stable basis for deterrence of war than the sole reliance on the threat of nuclear retaliation. This delegation also stated that to provide a fully effective layered defence, some elements of a ballistic missile defence system might need to be based in space. This delegation stated that the programme of research, development and testing related to this layered defence system was in full compliance with the 1972 ABM Treaty.

70. One delegation underlined that satellite monitoring, verification and communications for various purposes had nothing in common with development and testing of space arms' components for their eventual deployment in space. This delegation indicated that weaponization of outer space would inevitably lead to destabilization of the strategic situation, undermining of international security and atmosphere of confidence and co-operation, disruption of the prospects of further arms limitation and disarmament measures.

71. One delegation submitted a working paper on proposals and comments by Member States of the Conference concerning the participation of technical and other experts in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee (CD/OS/WP.30). The delegation suggested that experts, being members of the delegations, should participate in the Committee's work during a fixed period agreed upon by delegations in formal meetings of the Committee. It also held that it should