

no other weapons systems. The Moon Treaty, which aims at entirely demilitarizing outer space, with the exception of the proximity of the earth, has been signed by very few States indeed and has not yet entered into force. The Registration Convention may have some confidence-building functions but would need to be more effectively complied with. It should also have to be strengthened by additional provisions.

As to various pertinent bilateral agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States, emphasis should be given to the significant stabilizing role of the 1972 ABM Treaty. It is conceived of as a crucial building block in the strategic relationship between the two major nuclear and space powers. Many States have therefore repeatedly urged the two Parties to the Treaty to secure its continuation.

Other bilateral disarmament agreements which are relevant in this context are, for example, the 1971 Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War and the 1973 Agreement on the Prevention of Nuclear War, which secure a protection for early warning satellites, thus indicating the vital stabilizing function attributed by the two major powers to such satellites. There may also be reason to recall the unratified SALT II Treaty, which prohibited the testing and deployment of Fractional Orbital Bombardment Systems (FOBS). Relevant parts of the provisions of these Treaties can be of interest also for multilateral purposes.

As an immediate measure the Swedish delegation has proposed that the present de facto moratorium by the two major space powers on testing of existing dedicated ASAT-systems be formalized. Production as well as deployment of dedicated ASATs should be prohibited without delay, and existing ASAT-systems should be dismantled. Furthermore, the testing of non-dedicated systems in an ASAT-mode should be prohibited. This approach would thus in a functional way comprise all convertible ASATs.

Several proposals have been made in the Conference on Disarmament concerning the question of indirect protection of satellites, including rules of the road, keep-out zones, codes of conduct, immunity for satellites, etc. These proposals should be discussed in a systematic way with a view to defining relevant measures. It will also have to be established to what extent various proposed measures should be dealt with in the Conference on Disarmament, or should be referred to for instance the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).