

7. Possible mandates for an expert group.

8. Main provisions of a treaty on the prohibition of ASAT weapons and ways to ensure the immunity of space objects.

28. Some delegations reiterated that the overall objective of the Conference on Disarmament should be the complete prohibition of the development, testing, production and deployment of space weapons. Pending the realization of that comprehensive objective, they considered that efforts should be concurrently directed towards the adoption of partial measures, especially to deal with the most urgent problems such as a ban on anti-satellite weapons.

29. Delegations of a group of socialist countries considered that the Ad Hoc Committee had accumulated a wealth of ideas and proposals and that a good basis had been established for concrete and goal-oriented work. Noting the continuing validity of the proposals for the conclusion of a treaty on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space and of a treaty prohibiting the use of force in outer space or from space against the Earth, they expressed readiness to consider partial measures leading to the prevention of the deployment of space weapons. They suggested that the first step could be the elaboration of an international agreement to ensure the immunity of artificial satellites not carrying weapons of any kind. At the same time, in their view, consideration should be given to the possibility of a prohibition on the development of new types of ASAT systems and the elimination of existing ones. They also proposed to discuss the possibility of taking measures aimed at banning space-to-space, space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space weapon systems. Underlining that the non-deployment of weapons in outer space should be effectively verified, they elaborated on the proposals for the creation of a world space organization and for the establishment of an international inspectorate. In order to facilitate the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, a document (CD/777) containing provisions of a treaty on the prohibition of anti-satellite weapons and on ways to ensure the immunity of space objects was submitted to the Conference.

30. Other delegations were not in favour of proposals calling for an immediate ASAT ban, immunity for all satellites, a ban on so-called space weapons and other similar approaches. In their view, these approaches did not take adequately into account objective political, strategic, military and technical factors. Nor were such proposals helpful in fulfilling the Committee's mandate, and in particular in assisting delegations to widen and deepen their understanding of the complex issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

31. Other delegations pointed out that those delegations which rejected proposals on an ASAT ban or on other ways to ban outer space weapons, had advanced no other comparable proposals on their part aimed at achieving the common objective of preventing an arms race in outer space.

32. Various delegations considered that existing proposals for the definition of space weapons (CD/OS/WP.13/Rev.1 and CD/OS/WP.14/Rev.1 and Add.1) shared common elements and thus provided a good basis for further work towards the objective of prohibiting the emergence of space weapons. Other delegations,