

commented that the variety of views which existed on the meaning of a number of terms had introduced a wide area of uncertainty and ambiguity into attempts to establish what were permitted or prohibited uses of space. One of these delegations circulated a two-volume dictionary of terms relating to space science and technology, which was generally welcomed.

24. Other delegations pointed out that complicated agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space could be verifiable at present and that rapid development of technology was helpful in devising increasingly reliable technical means of verification. These delegations also believed that the process of consideration of and negotiation on specific proposals to prevent an arms race in outer space would reveal which terms might need to be clarified or even strictly defined, in order to eliminate any unacceptable degree of uncertainty or ambiguity that might exist in the interpretation of their meaning.

25. One delegation, in addition to sharing the views reflected in paragraph 23, considered that the existing legal régime for arms control in outer space was equitable, balanced and extensive and that it could be said that it had been far more successful in preventing an arms race than any comparable legal régime on Earth. Moreover, the existing régime did not contain gaps and holes, instead, it placed strict legal controls on virtually any possible type of weapon in outer space and has several significant accomplishments to its credit. It further believed that if all nations were to comply fully with all existing agreements there would be no doubt that outer space would be used only for peaceful purposes.

26. Many delegations were of the view that all States, in particular the space Powers, should become parties to the multilateral treaties in force that contain provisions relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, in particular the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty and the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

C. Existing proposals and future initiatives on the prevention of an arms race in outer space

27. Various delegations noted that in addition to the proposals made during previous sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee, as contained in CD/OS/WP.16 and Add.1, inter alia, the following proposals and views were submitted during the 1987 session:

1. Establishment of an international inspectorate.
2. Ways and means of strengthening the Registration Convention.
3. Prohibition of activities contributing directly or indirectly to an arms race in outer space by amending the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.
4. Declarations on non-deployment of weapons in outer space.
5. A possible approach for a treaty on ASAT weapons.
6. Elaboration of a Code of Conduct.