

62. The Group of 21 stressed that the need to undertake negotiations on concrete measures on an urgent basis had become evident. It suggested ways to improve the work of the Ad Hoc Committee in the examination of existing proposals in order to make it more effective. In this respect, the same Group proposed dealing with those proposals that lend themselves to a more structured analysis by the establishment of sub-groups. The same Group stated that there appeared to be a general recognition that the Committee could usefully consider confidence-building measures and data-base improvements relevant to its mandate in consonance with evident complementarities of bilateral and multilateral efforts in this area. Given the improved international atmosphere the Group also underlined the continued general recognition in the Ad Hoc Committee for over five years of the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and its readiness to contribute to that common objective. This Group felt that opportunities existed for such a constructive course of action to facilitate progress towards achieving the objectives of the Committee's mandate.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

63. There continued to be general recognition in the Ad Hoc Committee of the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and readiness to contribute to that common objective. The work of the Committee since its establishment in 1985 has contributed to the accomplishment of this task. The Committee held a wide ranging exchange of views and heard a number of expert presentations which contributed to identifying and clarifying a number of issues and to a clearer perception of the various positions. The Committee, while aiming at identifying areas of convergence suitable for further structured work, advanced and further developed the examination and identification of various issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. It was recognized once more that the legal régime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space. There was again recognition of the significant role that the legal régime applicable to outer space plays in the prevention of an arms race in that environment and of the need to consolidate and reinforce that régime and enhance its effectiveness and of the importance of strict compliance with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral. There was general recognition of the importance of the bilateral negotiations between the Union