

38. In connection with the statement in the paragraph above, some delegations pointed out that strategic stability is an objectively important factor in maintaining and strengthening peace and international security, and that they continued to strive to maintain military balance at the lowest possible level.

39. Other delegations added that the concept of strategic stability and the means of its implementation employed by their countries were fully consistent with the obligations of all States to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State.

40. Some delegations were of the opinion that all aspects of the arms race in outer space should be dealt with in order to achieve a comprehensive régime to prevent an arms race in outer space. In their view, the principles of demilitarization should be extended to encompass outer space as a whole.

41. Various delegations held that verifiability was a fundamental criterion that should be applied in the consideration of proposals relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. They pointed out that, as discussed in document CD/OS/WP.7, in the case of most existing agreements, for example, the ENMOD Convention and the Outer Space Treaty, verification provisions were limited. They suggested that, at the present stage of technical development, some sort of international direct inspection should be applied, including on-site inspection, whenever feasible. Some delegations believed that consideration should be given to the establishment of an international agency to verify compliance so that all Parties may have access to the results of verification. In that connection, a number of delegations referred to the proposal for the establishment of an international satellite monitoring agency. Many delegations supporting the proposal for the establishment of an international satellite monitoring agency, pointed out that it would, inter alia, overcome the credibility gap that besets the existing national technical means of verification. They, however, held that an imposition of verifiability as a fundamental criterion would have the effect of creating an insurmountable obstacle to all attempts at negotiating agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space. They alluded in this context to the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Other delegations noted in the same