

view was that consideration be given to procedures to verify the accuracy of information on space objects, including verification of their nature at the launching sites. Some delegations considered that questions concerning the Registration Convention fell within the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In addition, one delegation noted that the Registration Convention had been negotiated to establish an international register of space objects to give practical effect to the Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects and held that the introduction of changes in the former entailed a high probability of introducing confusion into the latter. Some delegations pointed out that the Registration Convention, as mentioned in its preamble, has to be seen in the context of developing international law governing the exploration and use of outer space and therefore has direct relevance to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. Some delegations suggested that besides data on objects launched into outer space, information should also be provided, in the interest of greater transparency, on ballistic missile defence research currently being carried out by some countries.

39. Referring to its proposal concerning declarations that weapons have not been deployed in outer space on a permanent basis, one delegation explained that the initiative aimed at generating a climate of confidence in the field of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Some delegations supported the proposal and recalled that the usefulness of unilateral declarations as confidence-building measures had been acknowledged in various fields of arms limitation and disarmament. Supporting this proposal, one delegation belonging to the group of Socialist States recalled that it had stated that it would not be the first to place weapons in outer space.

40. Another delegation, commenting on the problems that in its view this proposal raised, noted that there were many kinds of weapon systems that could be used against space objects and that not all of them need necessarily be placed in space. It pointed out that those were the kinds of issues that were under discussion in the bilateral negotiations.

41. Delegations generally recognized the importance of verification in the context of measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. Some delegations considered that it should be possible to assure verification of compliance with agreements relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space through a combination of national technical means and international procedures. It was also noted that the Outer Space Treaty contained some verification provisions. A number of delegations were of the view that verification functions should be entrusted to an international body to provide the international community with an independent capability to verify compliance. Reference was made to the proposed international satellite monitoring agency and to international co-operation for the use of Earth monitoring satellites for the verification of arms limitation and disarmament agreements. Mention was also made of the possibilities offered by the PAXSAT concept - a research programme on the feasibility of the application of remote-sensing techniques to the verification of multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements and covering both space-to-space and space-to-ground remote-sensing.