

60. 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.

61. Some delegations recognized the importance of verification in the context of measures to prevent an arms race in outer space and considered that it should be possible to assure verification of compliance with agreements through a combination of national technical means and international procedures. Other delegations 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.

62. One delegation, sharing the view that the key to efficiency in the field of disarmament, including that of outer space, was reliable verification, called for a comprehensive international verification system. In its view, among appropriate means and methods, a very important though not necessarily exclusive role should be attributed to reconnaissance satellites under the control of an international verification organization. That delegation underlined that the most urgent task in preventing an arms race in outer space was to create safe conditions for monitoring from space by means of a comprehensive treaty regulating States' activities in outer space and prohibiting all means and methods being utilized on the surface, in the atmosphere or in outer space, which might be suitable to interfere with the normal functioning of satellites or to destroy them physically, whether they had been dedicated for monitoring civilian or military purposes or not. Results and data obtained by such a monitoring system should be freely available for all States Parties.

63. Delegations of the Group of Socialist States underlined that the non-deployment of weapons in space should be effectively verified. One of them pointed to the proposal to establish an international inspectorate with the aim to verify that no weapons were placed on objects launched into outer space. Some delegations stressed that the role and use of satellites for