

article IV of the Outer Space Treaty under the perspective of the régime applicable to outer space as distinct from the one confined to the moon and other celestial bodies. Some proposals related to an amendment of the Outer Space Treaty and to transforming it into a comprehensive Treaty.

26. As to confidence-building measures, the Group of 21 recalled United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/55 B, which reaffirms the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and recognizes their applicability in the space environment under specific criteria yet to be defined.

27. According to many delegations there appeared to be a general recognition that the Committee could usefully consider confidence-building measures including data-base improvements relevant to the mandate of the Committee and in consonance with evident complementarities of bilateral and multilateral efforts in this area.

28. Members of the Group of 21 consistently addressed the question of a comprehensive ban of anti-satellite weapons, including a ban on testing in an ASAT mode of other weapons devices. In the context of measures pertaining to ASATs while recognizing the verification challenges connected with measures to prevent an arms race in outer space, the Group of 21 found it logical that these issues became the subject of more concrete deliberations and negotiations. The Group suggested that it might be useful in that connection to address the question of identifying technical means to support observation and verification functions pertaining to different relevant measures.

29. On the subject of immunity of satellites many delegations stressed an increasingly important role of satellites in a variety of fields. For these delegations the spread of satellite technology had generated enormous opportunities for developments in the field of economic growth and international security and it was imperative that the international community safeguard the increasing positive developments of satellite technology on an urgent basis. It was acknowledged by those delegations that some amount of immunity had been provided to satellites by the 1967 Outer Space Treaty in relationship with Article II, paragraph 4 of the UN Charter. Under bilateral agreements between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics protection was also provided by prohibiting interference with national technical means. This régime was on the one hand limited in scope and on the other not universal. Further development of a regime providing for immunity of satellites would not run contrary to the UN Charter.