

their economic and social development according to their needs, interests and priorities. In this connection, these delegations underlined the need to further the objectives of Article I of the Outer Space Treaty.

48. Some delegations emphasized 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. Three possibilities were suggested to achieve a complete prohibition of all activities that could directly or indirectly contribute to an arms race in outer space: amending Article IV of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, an additional protocol thereto, or the elaboration of a new comprehensive treaty.

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49. Some delegations supported the idea of establishing a group of experts to provide technical expertise and guidance in the consideration of issues relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The view was expressed that such a group could assist the Ad Hoc Committee with respect to problems of definition. Another idea was that the group could be entrusted with the task of defining the nature of the information that should be provided pursuant to the 1975 Registration Convention in order to permit that a distinction be made between military and non-military space objects. Some delegations shared the view that the participation of experts made a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee and believed that it would be useful for experts to be included in delegations. In their opinion, however, at this stage of the work, the Committee was not yet in a position to establish a group of experts with a specific mandate. Some delegations suggested that, with a view to reaching a common approach to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space, it would be desirable that the Committee draw up an open-ended list of questions and, at an appropriate stage, identify those that needed further elaboration by experts under a clearly-defined mandate.

50. Some delegations considered that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee should be oriented towards the elaboration of measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. They believed that there were sufficient areas of consensus in the ideas and suggestions that had been put forward which could serve as points of departure for multilateral negotiations. In their view, the proposal for a structured discussion of Item 3 of the programme of work (CD/OS/WP.18) provided a basis to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee's work. They emphasized that the 1988 mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee should adequately reflect that view. Other delegations considered that it was necessary to continue the examination and identification of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to reaching a level of common understanding that would permit the Committee to arrive at a common definition of the scope and specific objectives of multilateral efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

IV. CONCLUSION

51. The work carried out in 1987 contributed to the accomplishment of the Ad Hoc Committee's task. In accordance with its programme of work, the Committee advanced and developed further the examination and identification of various issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The discussions held contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems