

C. Existing proposals and future initiatives on the prevention of an arms race in outer space

37. Some delegations, stressing the urgency of forestalling the introduction of weapons in space, discussed comprehensive proposals for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, such as those calling for a treaty prohibiting the use of force in outer space or from space against Earth, a treaty prohibiting the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space and amendments to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. In this context, some of these delegations considered that the various definitions of space weapons that had been put forward provided a good basis for working towards a comprehensive prohibition of weapons that were not yet outlawed under the existing legal régime. They also suggested that with the assistance of experts it should be possible to formulate a definition that would not only describe space weapons but also list their components.

38. A proposal was submitted (CD/OS/WP.37) to amend Article IV of the Outer Space Treaty so as to make its prohibition applicable to any kind of weapons and to contemplate the negotiation of an Additional Protocol for the purpose of prohibiting the development, production, storage and deployment of anti-satellite-weapons systems which are not stationed in outer space. According to that proposal those amendments to the Treaty would be complemented by a second additional protocol to deal with the verification system to ensure faithful compliance with the obligations assumed by the States Parties which may be a mixed system based principally on a multinational or international approach and on a national approach in accordance with the means of verification available to each State Party.

39. One delegation expressed the view that the general objective should aim at establishing one legal régime for outer space as well as the Moon and other celestial bodies. It maintained that this could only be realized through a clear-cut provision declaring that outer space shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

40. One delegation recalled that the previous year it had submitted a proposal contained in document CD/851 seeking to amend Article IV of the Outer Space Treaty. That delegation stressed that that proposal has, as its point of departure, the recognition, largely shared by a vast sector the Conference and reflected in previous reports of the Ad Hoc Committee that the Outer Space Treaty has an important juridical vacuum and is inadequate to prevent an arms race in outer space because it does not prohibit the stationing in space of