

that the Committee should discuss the existing military activities in space and look at the value and utility of such activity. Among other pertinent subjects for discussion, interference with the functions of space objects and the implications of the potential for such interference, re-usable launchers and their implications; the expansion of industry and commerce into outer space and its relationship with any future arms control initiatives were mentioned.

16. One delegation also stated that before the Ad Hoc Committee could properly entertain proposals for future initiatives on the prevention of an arms race in outer space it should first examine in detail which issues before it were relevant to its work and if the agreements already in existence contribute to preventing an outer space arms race. The same delegation noted that its country remained committed to multilateral approaches to arms limitations and disarmament where appropriate and it had made a serious attempt to identify measures that might be feasible and desirable as the basis for negotiating further multilateral arms control agreements that apply to outer space, but it had identified no appropriate measures that would enhance international security and were both feasible and verifiable. This delegation also noted that a fundamental framework must first be established on a bilateral level. It rejected the concept of "space strike weapons" and phrases "dedicated" and "non-dedicated anti-satellite systems" for being part of a selective approach which did not give an accurate picture of the threats against space objects and of the military and strategic situation relevant to outer space.

17. One delegation held that outer space, as the common heritage of mankind, should be used only for peaceful purposes and in the interests of human welfare. It considered that to prevent an arms race in outer space has become a new priority item in the field of disarmament. That delegation had always held that the effective way to prevent an arms race in outer space was to ban all types of space weapons. In the view of this delegation, the major space Powers, which bore a special responsibility for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and were the sole countries to possess and continue to develop space weapons, should commit themselves not to test, develop, produce and deploy space weapons and to destroy all their existing space weapons. It held that on this basis, an international agreement or agreements on the complete prohibition of space weapons could be concluded through negotiations. It also stressed that it was imperative to start substantive negotiations on the