

of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind, submitted in 1984. They also referred to their proposal, which called for an agreement on the prohibition and elimination of an entire class of weapons, namely, attack space systems of any kind - conventional, nuclear, laser, particle-beam or any other form - whether manned or unmanned. Such space systems should not be developed, tested or deployed, either for anti-missile defence or as anti-satellite systems, or for use against targets on Earth or in the air and systems that had already been developed should be destroyed. In their view, all these proposals provided a constructive basis for working out an agreement or agreements for the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In their opinion, which was shared by other delegations, a first step in that direction would be for other States to join in the unilateral moratorium already declared by one State on the launching of anti-satellite weapons in outer space, which would be in force as long as other States acted in the same way. These delegations were of the view that the 1983 draft treaty submitted to the Conference in document CD/476 was a good basis for conducting negotiations on the problem under consideration.

31. In connection with the latter proposal, some delegations observed that the text concerned had serious deficiencies, inter alia, because of its unequal approach, the imprecision of its definitions, and its lack of effective verification proposals.

32. Some other delegations rejected those assertions and pointed out that, if such preliminary observations had any ground at all, they could be considered in the course of the negotiations with a view to elaborating a generally agreed comprehensive agreement to prevent an arms race in outer space.

33. Various delegations referred to suggestions or proposals concerning the prohibition of anti-satellite systems and the protection of satellites. The view was expressed that the main task should be to negotiate an international treaty banning all space weapons, including weapons directed against targets in space. Such a ban should cover the development, testing and deployment of ASAT weapons on Earth, in the atmosphere and in outer space and should include the destruction of existing ASAT systems. Furthermore, in this view, damage, disturbance and harmful interference in the normal functioning of permitted space objects should be forbidden in international agreements in order to strengthen the Outer Space Treaty and confirm the International Telecommunications Convention.