

delegations believed that strengthening of the Registration Convention would be a valuable confidence-building measure, and they discussed various ways and means of improving the system of notification established thereunder with a view to assuring the availability of timely and adequate information on the nature and purposes of space activities.

57. In this connection, one delegation suggested the concept of separate protocol negotiated in the Committee on exchange of information on and notification of outer space activities. The same delegation proposed some verification measures which could include verification of notified launches on the basis of mutual invitation or ad hoc mutual inspection without the need of any international structures. This delegation considered that the Conference might adopt measures not having the character of legal documents but expressing a political commitment and contributing to building confidence, aimed at strengthening the international legal régime applicable to outer space and at increasing the transparency of outer space activities, particularly having military or military-related functions. The delegation suggested that these measures could be approved by the Conference as a part of its report on the work on item 5 (CD/941-CD/OS/WP.38).

58. Some delegations considered that questions concerning the Registration Convention fell within the competence of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In addition, one delegation noted that the Registration Convention had been negotiated to establish an international register of space objects to give practical effect to the Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects and held that the introduction of changes in the former entailed a high probability of introducing confusion into the latter. Some delegations pointed out that the Registration Convention, as mentioned in its preamble, has to be seen in the context of developing international law governing the exploration and use of outer space and therefore had direct relevance to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

59. Referring to its proposal concerning declarations that weapons have not been deployed in outer space on a permanent basis, one delegation explained that the initiative was aimed at generating a climate of confidence in the field of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Some delegations welcomed the proposal and recalled that the usefulness of unilateral declarations as confidence-building measures had been acknowledged in various fields of arms limitation and disarmament. Supporting this proposal, one delegation belonging to the Group of Socialist States recalled that it had stated that it would not be the first to place weapons in outer space.