

23. One delegation not belonging to any Group held the view that the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the peaceful utilization of it was the common aspiration of mankind. It reiterated that its State had all along been opposed to the arms race in outer space and stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all kinds of space weapons. It pointed out that in spite of the preliminary achievements in the nuclear and conventional disarmament, the arms race in outer space between the two major space powers had not ended but on the contrary had taken on a new trend. Hence preventing an arms race in outer space had become a major task in the field of disarmament. In its view the arms race in outer space based on the latest development in science and technology was a qualitative escalation of the arms race in nature, which not only posed a threat to international peace and security but was also detrimental to the activities aimed at the peaceful use of outer space. Furthermore, it considered that it would have an adverse effect on the disarmament process. Confronting with such a reality it stood to reason for the international community to demand that the two countries with the largest space capabilities bear special responsibilities in preventing an arms race in outer space. It took note of the bilateral negotiations on space issues between the two major space powers and pointed out that so far nothing substantive had been achieved. It held the view that in order to effectively prevent an arms race in outer space it was necessary that the two countries with the largest space capabilities should immediately adopt practical measures in undertaking not to develop, test and deploy any types of space weapons and destroy all the existing ones, including both anti-ballistic missiles and anti-satellite weapons, and on the basis of this, conduct serious negotiations with a view to concluding an agreement that completely bans all space weapons. While stressing the importance of the existing international legal instruments, it pointed out their insufficiency as well as the need to negotiate new international legal instruments. It stated that as the sole multilateral forum of disarmament negotiations, the Conference on Disarmament should start as soon as possible negotiations on an international convention on the complete prohibition of outer space weapons and on the prevention of arms race in outer space.

24. The Group of 21 emphasized the need for in-depth treatment of matters under item 3 of the work program "Existing proposals and future initiatives on the prevention of an arms race in outer space".

25. Members of the Group of 21 having brought up certain comprehensive proposals, pointed out that there was a need to further analyse limitations of