

relevant to outer space. Apart from broadening participation in existing legal instruments, in their view the Committee could look into the possibility of identifying measures for greater transparency of military-related uses of space, which would make a valuable contribution to the collective search for creating better conditions for political stability.

33. Various delegations believed that the present legal régime governing outer space was no longer adequate to guarantee the prevention of an arms race occurring in outer space. It was noted that General Assembly resolution 43/70 recognized the urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and requested the Conference on Disarmament to undertake negotiations for the conclusion of binding agreement or agreements, as appropriate. While recognizing the significant role played by that régime and the need to consolidate and strengthen it and its effectiveness, several delegations called for the total prohibition of the development, production, stationing, stock-piling and use of space weapons and the destruction or transformation of existing weapons.

34. One delegation maintained that the existing international treaties on outer space were characterized by the specific situation at the time of their adoption and were therefore limited from an historic perspective. These international legal instruments, despite their significance, could not longer meet contemporary needs and they were no longer adequate for the prevention of an arms race in outer space. They had no clear-cut provisions on the banning of the arms race in outer space, did not prohibit all space weapons, and contained no provisions on the demilitarization of outer space.

35. One delegation responded that because of the primary set of restraints in existing international legal instruments, those weapons that pose the greatest threat are covered by the legal régime. This delegation further noted that there is no indication that any activities currently underway in space are detracting from stability, but rather that current activities are contributing to stability by enhancing capabilities for deterrence and verification. This delegation stated that the most threatening situations for international peace remain on earth.

36. Many delegations were of the view that all States, in particular the space Powers, should become parties to the multilateral treaties in force that contained provisions relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, in particular the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty and the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.