

CD/476 and CD/274. They expressed their conviction that the Conference could and should make a significant contribution towards the achievement of this objective.

14. Stressing that arms control and disarmament are not ends in themselves but means to a more important goal, that of enhanced security, some delegations noted that a large majority of space activities consists of military activities and noted that many such activities clearly had stabilizing roles and were vital components of deterrence and strategic stability. They noted that military systems deployed in space accomplished a variety of support missions and that they played a vital role in the strategic relationship of the two major Powers. They considered that, while the Ad Hoc Committee had had very substantial discussions, fundamental divergences persisted and the work was still in an exploratory phase. In their view, the prevention of an arms race in outer space was linked to and should take into account progress in other fields of arms limitation and disarmament, in particular the reduction of nuclear weapons. These delegations continued to underline the importance of issues relating to verification of and compliance with existing and future agreements and held that those issues required a more thorough examination. They also stressed the need for detailed information on national space programmes that had military implications. One delegation pointed out that the aim of the Committee should be to consider different approaches to the subject and to make sure that each participant understood the concerns and the interests of other States. That delegation did not believe that the Committee was in a position to begin negotiations as there were still too many unanswered questions. When negotiations come, they might not be in this forum since some issues, such as ballistic missile defence, were better dealt with bilaterally. It noted that some other delegations maintained that the conclusion of agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space was a matter of great urgency. The delegation believed that improved security must be pursued whether on earth or in space but it did not believe that the threat of an arms race in outer space was imminent. It also noted that the predicted proliferation of anti-satellite weapons had not happened.

15. Some delegations reckoned that discussions on definitions so far had been unsatisfactory and had shown that without consensus about the basic assumptions and without agreement upon the technical, juridical and doctrinal meaning of a definition, any attempt to achieve clarity in conformity with intended treaty obligations would remain academic. The view was expressed