

applicable to outer space was far more comprehensive than the arms control régime on Earth. In this view, the Outer Space Treaty, together with the Partial Test Ban Treaty which, inter alia, prohibited nuclear explosions in outer space, had the effect of making outer space a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

27. Various delegations referred to the 1975 Registration Convention requiring States of registry to furnish to the Secretary-General of the United Nations information concerning space objects, including their general function. Those delegations felt that this Convention, if adequately implemented, could serve as a valuable confidence-building measure in that it would give greater transparency to outer space activities.

28. Some delegations held that the examination of the existing legal régime undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee had confirmed the need to clarify ambiguities and arrive at consensus interpretations of what was permitted and what was prohibited. Many delegations held that the work of the Committee would be most successful if it proceeded by undertaking a complete examination of the present legal régime aimed at a common understanding of that régime. Other delegations believed that the discussion had shown that the existing body of international law applicable to outer space contained many loopholes to prevent effectively an arms race in outer space. Therefore, they believed that it was imperative to commence negotiations immediately with a view to arriving at agreement or agreements that will prevent such an arms race in outer space. Many other delegations pointed out that the Committee should instead direct its work towards practical measures preventing an arms race in outer space in all its aspects as recommended by United Nations General Assembly resolution 39/59.

29. A number of views and proposals were brought to the attention of the Committee (CD/274, CD/476, A/39/243, CD/607; CD/357, CD/PV.263, CD/540, para. 109; CD/540, para. 110; CD/579; CD/PV.252, CD/PV.301, CD/OS/WP.8; CD/PV.279; CD/PV.318; CD/PV.325).

30. Stressing the need to block all channels for the extension of the arms race into outer space, delegations of the group of socialist countries drew attention to the draft treaties on the prohibition of the stationing of weapons of any kind in outer space, submitted in 1981, contained in document CD/274, and on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from space against the Earth, submitted in 1983, contained in document CD/476, and to the proposal on the use