

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 446th plenary meeting, on 8 March 1988, the Conference on Disarmament adopted the following decision:

"In the exercise of its responsibilities as the multilateral disarmament negotiating forum in accordance with paragraph 120 of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament decides to re-establish an Ad Hoc Committee under Item 5 of its agenda entitled 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space'.

The Conference requests the Ad Hoc Committee, in discharging that responsibility, to continue to examine, and to identify, through substantive and general consideration, issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

The Ad Hoc Committee in carrying out this work, will take into account all existing agreements, existing proposals and future initiatives as well as developments which have taken place since the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, in 1985.

The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Conference on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the first part of its 1988 session, in view of the forthcoming third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. It will also report to the Conference before the conclusion of the second part of its 1988 session."

In that connection, the President of the Conference and various delegations made statements regarding the scope of the mandate. All those statements made possible the adoption of the mandate.

2. Pursuant to its mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee submitted to the Conference on Disarmament a special report covering the consideration of agenda item 5 during 1985, 1986, 1987 and the first part of the 1988 session. At its 462nd plenary meeting, on 29 April 1988, the Conference adopted the report of the Committee which is an integral part of the special report submitted by the Conference to the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to Disarmament (CD/834).