

39. The importance and the urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space are recognized. All States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space. Recognizing the significant contribution that a successful outcome to the ongoing negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America would make to the common objective of preventing an arms race in outer space, the two negotiating parties are urged to achieve positive results as soon as possible. As the prevention of an arms race in outer space is a matter of universal concern, the General Assembly urges the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its efforts in this area.

40. The need to achieve significant reductions in conventional armaments and armed forces in various parts of the world, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, as essential elements of the disarmament process, is recognized. International peace and security cannot be achieved unless the questions of the qualitative development, the production and use of conventional weapons as well as all aspects, both overt and covert, of the issue of international arms transfers, are also resolutely addressed by the international community. Militarily significant States continue to have a special responsibility in this regard. Bearing in mind that different situations and aspects of the problem in diverse regions will require different approaches, proposals to achieve measures of conventional disarmament should be given serious consideration in appropriate forums, in order that mutually acceptable ways of making progress may be identified.

41. Naval forces should not be excluded from the disarmament process.

42. The importance of the Comprehensive Programme on Disarmament is emphasized. Noting the progress made by the Conference on Disarmament, the General Assembly recommends that the Conference should continue its negotiations on the Comprehensive Programme on Disarmament during the second part of its 1988 session with the firm intention of completing the elaboration of the Programme for its submission to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, or at the latest, at its forty-fourth session if the achievement of that objective is not possible during 1988.

43. It is recognized that the application of new technologies to the development of new weapons and weapon-systems can add a further dimension to the arms race. However, it is also recognized that new and emerging technologies can have significant applications in arms limitation and disarmament, including verification. While taking into account the requirements of national security, the exercise of appropriate self-restraint in research and development directed at new weapons could do much to strengthen international peace and security. Member States are encouraged to promote international co-operation in the use of scientific and technological developments for peaceful purposes.