

satellites or schemes like the ones referred to as "Rules of the Road" and others. Such a reformulated Registration Convention, in the view of that delegation, would certainly better adapt the instrument to its original objectives, while making it an important confidence-building and transparency measure related to space activities.

53. Another delegation pointed out that its Government did not favour proposals that blur the role of the Registration Convention, that confuse issues relevant to space co-operation with those relevant to space disarmament. It held that the Convention's primary purpose was to provide a central registry to facilitate determining liability and the Convention was not an arms control measure. It also strongly disagreed with the view that the 1975 Registration Convention needs amending. It functions well and should not be expected to take on burdens for which it was not designed. If changes were advisable, it would be most inappropriate to discuss them with non-parties of the Convention. That State judges that the Conference on Disarmament is not the competent body to discuss amendments and that this task falls properly within the mandate of the Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space. In particular, the Convention has provisions for amending, which States parties can implement at any time, and a problem with the Registration Convention has been in its implementation rather than in its provisions, as only about 35 States have ratified the Convention. The delegation made an appeal that all States with outer space programmes should become parties. Some States failed to register their space objects or waited several years before doing so. The delegation stressed that some of the very countries pressing for changes to the Registration Convention have either been negligent in their reporting or are not parties to the Convention and widespread adherence to the Convention is far more likely to strengthen it than piecemeal attempts to redefine its terms. The delegation did not see any need for additional reporting requirements or voluntary enhancement of the 1975 Registration Convention as Article IV of that Convention makes adequate provision for additional voluntary reporting and it is not at all clear that additional reporting would serve as measures to build confidence. It also noted that the issue of debris in space belongs elsewhere than in the Conference on Disarmament.

54. Referring to its proposal concerning declaration that weapons have not been deployed in outer space on a permanent basis, one delegation explained that the initiative, which was aimed at generating a climate of confidence in