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PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia,
German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian
Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:
draft resolution

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/97 C and 36/99 of 9 December 1981, as well as resolutions 37/83 of 9 December 1982, 37/99 D of 13 December 1982, 38/70 of 15 December 1983, 39/59 of 12 December 1984, 40/87 of 12 December 1985 and 41/53 of 3 December 1986,

Recalling the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 1/ as well as paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/

Reaffirming that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind,

1/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

2/ Resolution 8-10/2.

Considering that there is a need to unite the efforts of the whole international community and to develop and intensify comprehensive co-operation for the peaceful exploitation of outer space, which would be facilitated by the establishment of a World Space Organization,

Noting the great significance of confidence-building measures relating to the space activities of States for the development of international co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of outer space and the strengthening of international security,

Convinced that specific measures are needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and, in the first instance, for the banning of offensive space weapons,

Convinced also that a strengthening of the mutual and complementary relationship between multilateral efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space and the bilateral negotiations on nuclear and space weapons between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America could make a significant contribution to such an objective, in accordance with paragraphs 27 and 114 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Desiring that the negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America should lead as soon as possible to concrete results regarding the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the cessation of the arms race on Earth,

Emphasizing the great significance for the prevention of an arms race in outer space of the ABM Treaty of 1972,

Acknowledging the importance of ensuring strict verification of the observance of obligations with respect to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and of creating for these purposes a system of international verification to preserve peace in outer space,

Convinced that the spread of the arms race to outer space would entail, among other negative consequences, the waste of enormous resources acutely needed for development purposes, including the provision of tangible material assistance to developing countries,

Taking note of the conclusion in the report of the Conference on Disarmament that the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the course of its 1987 session advanced and developed further the examination and identification of various issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, 3/

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/42/27), sect. III.E, para. 82.

1. Recalls the obligation of all States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their space activities;
2. Reaffirms that general and complete disarmament under effective international control warrants that outer space shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it shall not become an arena for an arms race;
3. Emphasizes that concrete measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space should be adopted by the international community;
4. Calls upon all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to comply strictly with existing legal restrictions, both bilateral and multilateral, aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space, in the first instance the ABM Treaty of 1972;
5. Emphasizes the urgent need for the prohibition, halting of the development and destruction of anti-satellite weapons, and for the prohibition of the deployment of weapons in outer space;
6. Calls upon all States engaged in space activities to facilitate the development and strengthening of an international inspection system for the maintenance of peace in outer space, whose functions would include the inspection of every launch of space objects, and to transmit to representatives of the inspectorate in good time the necessary information about such launches, including their location, type of launch vehicle, general information about the object launched and relevant dates;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to invite States Members that have not yet done so to submit their views on the possibility of developing international co-operation for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and for the peaceful exploitation of outer space, including the establishment of a World Space Organization which would become an important component part of the machinery for internationalizing the efforts of States to ensure security and co-operation and would fulfil the functions both of verifying the prevention of a space arms race and of co-ordinating the peaceful exploitation of outer space, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;
8. Notes that the study on disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequences of extending the arms race into outer space, which was requested by the General Assembly in resolution 41/53, has been prepared by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and that following a final meeting of the group of experts in September 1987, a report on the work on that study was completed and prepared for publication in the autumn of 1987;
9. Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

10. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee at the beginning of its 1988 session in order to initiate without delay negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

11. requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this subject by the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".
