



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.1/42/L.11
22 October 1987
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Forty-second session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 56

PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy,
Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Turkey and United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and the applicable provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly.

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

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,

Recalling that the States parties to 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/ have undertaken, in article III, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding,

1/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

Emphasizing also the importance of article 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, which stipulates that States parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

Reaffirming the importance of respect for existing disarmament agreements relating to outer space and, in general, for the existing legal régime relating to the use of outer space,

Bearing in mind that outer space has been used for national security activities for 30 years,

Aware of the fundamental contribution that space activities can make to the economic and social progress of mankind, to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the implementation of agreements on arms control,

Recognizing the importance of the bilateral negotiations being conducted by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms with the declared objective of formulating effective agreements aimed, inter alia, at preventing an arms race in outer space,

Convinced of the importance of the role of the Conference on Disarmament in regard to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Noting the work undertaken to date by the Conference on Disarmament and by its Ad Hoc Committee to examine and to identify issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and convinced that this multilateral process and the bilateral negotiations are complementary,

1. Recalls the obligation of all States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their space activities in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

2. Expresses its satisfaction regarding the agreement reached in 1987 at the Conference on Disarmament on the re-establishment of an ad hoc committee on the specific topic of the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

3. Notes that the work accomplished in 1987 by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament has contributed to a better understanding of a certain number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions;

4. Considers that the examination and identification of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space needs to be advanced and further developed, with a view to reaching a level of agreement which would permit joint definition of the scope and specific objectives of the multilateral efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space;

5. Considers that no effort should be spared to ensure that the substantive work on the agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" continues during the 1988 session of the Conference on Disarmament;

6. Recommends that the Conference on Disarmament, at its 1988 session re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space with an adequate mandate;

7. Expresses the hope that the progress achieved in relation to intermediate-range nuclear weapons will lead the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to intensify their bilateral negotiations so as to arrive at effective and verifiable agreements designed to effect major reductions in their nuclear weapons, strengthen international stability and prevent an arms race in outer space;

8. Stresses the need to prevent the erosion of the treaties in force regarding this matter;

9. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on the work it has devoted to this question to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

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

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