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PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

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,

Reaffirming further the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes,

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

1/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

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,

Reaffirming, in particular, article IV of the above-mentioned Treaty, 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 also paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 2/ the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it is stated that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

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, 41/53 of 3 December 1986 and the relevant paragraphs of the Harare Declaration of the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, 3/

Gravely concerned at the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space and, in particular, by the impending threat of exacerbating the current state of insecurity by developments that could further undermine international peace and security and retard the pursuit of general and complete disarmament,

Mindful of the widespread interest expressed by Member States in the course of the negotiations on and following the adoption of the above-mentioned Treaty in ensuring that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, and taking note of proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session devoted to disarmament, and at its regular sessions and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Noting the grave concern expressed by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space over the extension of an arms race into outer space and the recommendations 4/ made to the competent organs of the

2/ Resolution S-10/2.

3/ See A/41/697-S/18392, annex, paras. 36-39.

4/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2), para. 426.

United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, and also to the Committee on Disarmament, 5/

Recognizing that the legal régime applicable to outer space, as such, is not sufficient to guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Convinced that further measures are needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that, in the context of multilateral negotiations for preventing an arms race in outer space, bilateral negotiations 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 paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Noting with satisfaction that bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have continued since 1985, on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms, both strategic and intermediate-range, and in their relationship, with the declared objective, endorsed in the Joint Statement of their leaders on 21 November 1985, 6/ of working out effective agreements aimed, inter alia, at preventing an arms race in outer space,

Anxious that concrete results should emerge from these negotiations as soon as possible,

Taking note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament, 7/

Welcoming the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space during the 1987 session of the Conference on Disarmament, in the exercise of the negotiating responsibilities of this sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, to continue to examine and to identify through substantive and general consideration issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

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;

5/ The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

6/ A/40/1070, annex.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/42/27).

3. Emphasizes that further 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, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and to take immediate measures to prevent an arms race in outer space in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding;

5. Invites all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to declare that they have not deployed weapons in outer space on a permanent basis;

6. Affirms the need to consolidate and reinforce the legal régime applicable to outer space in recognition of its significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment and the importance of strict compliance with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

7. 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;

8. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of preventing an arms race in outer space;

9. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consideration of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking into account all relevant proposals, including those presented in the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at its 1987 session and at the forty-second session of the General Assembly;

10. Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its 1988 session, with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

11. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to thoroughly examine various proposals and initiatives before it on all aspects of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to identifying specific measures in respect of the question;

12. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to pursue intensively their bilateral negotiations in a constructive spirit aimed at reaching early agreement for preventing an arms race in outer space, and to advise the Conference on Disarmament periodically of the progress of their bilateral sessions so as to facilitate its work;

13. Calls upon all States, especially those with major space capabilities, to refrain in their activities relating to outer space from actions contrary to the

observance of the relevant existing treaties or to the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space;

14. Takes note that the study called for in resolution 41/53 on disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequence of extending the arms race into outer space has been prepared by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and that, after a final meeting of the group of experts held in September 1987, the report was being finalized and prepared for publication in autumn 1987;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to invite views of Member States on all aspects of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

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

17. 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;

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