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Agenda item 55

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of,
Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Preventing 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,

Believing that any activity in outer space should be for peaceful purposes and carried on for the benefit of all peoples irrespective of the degree of their economic and scientific development,

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, 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, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding,

Recalling also article IV of the said Treaty,

Recalling paragraph 80 of the final document of the Xth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament which states that "in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate negotiations be held in accordance with the spirit 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,"

Noting the important and growing contribution of satellites both for civilian purposes and the verification of disarmament agreements and aware of the possibilities of their use to promote peace, stability and international co-operation,

Mindful of the widespread interest expressed by member States to ensure that the exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes, inter alia in the course of the negotiations on and following the adoption of the 1967 Treaty, and taking note of proposals submitted to the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, to the General Assembly and to the Committee on Disarmament,

Aware of the need to prevent an arms race in outer space and in particular of the threat posed by anti-satellite systems and their destabilizing effects for international peace and security,

Convinced that further measures are needed to prevent outer space from becoming an area of military confrontation, contrary to the spirit of the outer space Treaty of 1967,

Considering it necessary for the international community to give attention to specific measures regarding the question of anti-satellite systems in the Committee on Disarmament,

Bearing in mind that the restraint of anti-satellite systems has already been a subject in negotiations between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

1. Considers that further effective measures to prevent an arms race in outer space should be adopted by the international community;
2. Urges all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to actively contribute to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space and to refrain from any action contrary to that aim;
3. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to consider, as from the beginning of its session in 1982, the question of negotiating effective and verifiable agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space, taking into account all existing and future proposals designed to meet this objective;
4. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of negotiating an effective and verifiable agreement to prohibit anti-satellite systems, as an important step towards the fulfilment of the objectives set out in the preceding paragraph;
5. Requests the Committee on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its Thirty-seventh session;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Committee on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this subject by the General Assembly at its Thirty-sixth session;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the Thirty-seventh session the item entitled: Preventing an arms race in Outer space; Prohibition of Anti-Satellite Systems.
