



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.1/43/L.27
31 October 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 59

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 applicable provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1/

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the progress of 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, 2/ have undertaken, in article I.1, to carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other

1/ Resolution S-10/2.

2/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

celestial bodies, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of both strengthening 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, instal such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms control and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space and, in general, with the existing legal régime concerning the use of outer space,

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 in arms control,

Noting the important contribution to an increase in international trust that can be made by a greater openness and transparency in activities related to outer space,

Convinced that further efforts should be made in the search for effective and verifiable agreements on the interrelated questions of preventing an arms race in outer space and terminating it on Earth,

Noting with satisfaction that bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have made progress since 1985 on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms, both strategic and intermediate-range, with the declared objective, endorsed in the joint statement of their leaders on 21 November 1985, 3/ of working out effective agreements aimed, inter alia, at preventing an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that the effective foundation for significant progress in the multilateral domain is dependent on basic understandings achieved between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in their bilateral negotiations,

Urging the two negotiating parties to achieve positive results as soon as possible in their efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space,

1. Recalls the obligation of all States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to refrain from the threat or use of force in general, including in the area of outer space;

3/ A/40/1070, annex.

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the agreement reached in 1988 in the Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral negotiating forum, re-establishing the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space;
3. Considers that it is necessary to advance and develop further the examination and identification of issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space;
4. Deems it necessary, as was recognized by the Ad Hoc Committee, that no efforts should be spared to ensure that substantive work will continue on the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" at the next session of the Conference on Disarmament;
5. Emphasizes the need that the aforementioned efforts - in the multilateral field - should be aimed at decisively advancing the cause of disarmament, peace, stability and international trust and should be of a mutually complementary character in respect to those being developed bilaterally by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space and eliminating it on Earth;
6. Recognizes the further significant contribution that the ongoing negotiations between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics could make to maintaining international peace and security;
7. Calls upon the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and on the United States of America to continue their bilateral negotiations in the search for effective and verifiable agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space and terminating it on Earth, at drastically reducing nuclear arms and at strengthening international stability;
8. Emphasizes the necessity of preventing the erosion of relevant existing treaties and in this context reaffirms the vital importance of a strict compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems;
9. Urges as a matter of universal concern, the Conference on Disarmament to continue its work in the area of the prevention of an arms race in outer space;
10. Calls upon all States to make constructive contributions to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;
11. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on the work it has devoted to this question to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth 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-third session;
13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".