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### PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE

#### Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Virgilio A. REYES (Philippines)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Prevention of an arms **race** in outer space" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session in accordance with General Assembly resolution **42/33** of 30 November 1987.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, the General Assembly, *on* the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on the disarmament items allocated to it, namely items 51 to 69 and 139, 141 and 145. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and the 25th meetings, from 17 October to 2 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.3-25). Consideration of and action on draft resolutions on those items took place between 3 and 18 November (see A/C.1/43/PV.26-43).
4. In connection with item 59, the First Committee had before it the following documents :

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament: 1/

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/44/27).

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on prevention of an arms race in outer space (A/43/506 and Corr.1, end Add.1 and 2);

(a) Letter dated 11 January 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/88-S/19427);

(d) Letter dated 2 February 1988 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Stockholm Declaration, adopted on 21 January 1988 (A/43/125-S/19478);

(e) Letter dated 31 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the communiqué and the appeal issued by the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty at its Sofia meeting, on 29 and 30 March 1988 (A/43/276);

(f) Letter dated 5 April 1988 from the Permanent Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/283-S/19736);

(g) Letter dated 29 September 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents adopted at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Nicosia from 5 to 10 September 1988 (A/43/567-S/20212);

(h) Letter dated 21 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/741);

## II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

### A. Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.12 and Rev.1

5. On 28 October 1988, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe submitted a draft resolution, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/43/L.12). The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the 30th meeting, on 8 November, and read as follows:

"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 also** 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, 2/ 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,

**"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, 3/ 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 42/33 of 30 November 1987 and the relevant paragraphs of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, 4/

**"Recognizing** the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective,

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2/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

3/ Resolution S-10/2.

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

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

**"Gravely concerned also that rapid progress in space technology leaves open the danger of weapons being deployed in outer space,**

**"Encouraged by the widespread interest expressed by Member States in the course of 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 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 User of Outer Space at the extension of an arms race into outer space and the recommendation<sup>5/</sup> made to the competent organs of the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, and also to the Conference on Disarmament,**

**"Noting also that, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in the Conference on Disarmament, in 1988, the identification and examination of various issues, initiatives and proposals aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space and ensuring that its exploration and use will be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes in the common interest and for the benefit of all mankind has contributed to a deeper understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of various positions,**

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

**"Recognizing that the existing legal régime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space,**

**"Recognizing also 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,**

**"Noting the importance in this context of bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America that**

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<sup>5/</sup> 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.

have continued since 1985 and including at their Summits in Wackington and Moscow *on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms.*

"Hopeful that concrete results would emerge from these *negotiations* as soon as possible,

"Emphasizing the complementary nature of bilateral *and* multilateral negotiations,

"Taking note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to this question, 6/

"Welcoming the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee ~~on~~ the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space during *the* 1988 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 encluaively for peaceful purposes and that it shall not become *an arena* for an arms race;

"3. Recognizes the important role of the legal régime applicable to outer space in the prevention of an arms race in that environment and its peaceful development for the benefit of humanity?

"4. Recognizes also the need to consolidate and reinforce that régime and to enhance its effectiveness as well as the importance of strictly complying with existing bilateral and multilateral agreements)

"5. 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 community1

"6. 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;

"7. Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the

negotiation of 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 at the 1988 session of the Conference and at the forty-third 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 1989 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, in the context of its negotiating mandate, to continue to examine and analyse the various proposals and initiatives before it with a view to considering appropriate measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the development of that environment for exclusively peaceful purposes;

"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 of the report of the Secretary-General <sup>1/</sup> on the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space submitted in accordance with resolution 42/33 of 30 November 1987;

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

"16. 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;

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<sup>1/</sup> A/43/506 and Add.1.

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

6. On 17 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/43/L.12/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by Bangladesh, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ireland, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Suriname, Uruguay and Viet Nam. The revised draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka at the 42nd meeting, on 18 November.

7. At its 42nd meeting, on 18 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.12/Rev.1, as follows:

(a) The eleventh preambular paragraph was adopted by a recorded vote of 121 to 1, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows: 8/

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, *Bahrain*, Bangladesh, Barbados, **Benin**, Bolivia, Botswana, **Brazil**, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, **Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic**, Cameroon, **Central African Republic**, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, **Fiji**, Finland, Gabon, **German Democratic Republic**, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, **Guyana**, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, **Kenya**, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab **Jamahiriya**, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, **Mozambique**, Nepal, New Zealand, **Nicaragua**, Niger, **Nigeria**, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, **Peru**, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, **Sri Lanka**, Sudan, **Suriname**, Swsailand, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of **Tanzania**, Uruguay, Venezuela, **Viet Nam**, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** United States of America.

**Abstaining:** Belgium, Canada, *France*, Germany, Federal Republic of, **Israel**, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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8/ Subsequently, the delegation of Mali indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of retaining the eleventh preambular paragraph.

(b) The eighteenth **preambular** paragraph was adopted by a **recorded** vote of 121 to 1, with 11 abstentions. The voting was as follows: **9/**

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, **Brazil**, Brunei Dsrussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byeloruesian Soviet **Socialist** Republic, **Cameroon**, Canada, Central African **Republic**, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, **Costa Rica**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, Cuba, Cyprus, **Czechoslovakia**, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, **Gambia**, **German** Democratic Republic, **Greece**, Guatemala, **Guinea**, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao **People's** Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab **Jamahiriya**, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, **Malta**, Mauritania, **Mexico**, Mongolia, Morocco, **Mozambique**, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, **Norway**, **Oman**, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, **Samoa**, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaailand, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, **Togo**, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, **Ukrainian** Soviet Socialist Republic, **Union** of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of **Tanzania**, Uruguay, **Venezuela**, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** United States of America.

**Abstaining:** Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(c) Operative paragraph 8 was adopted by a recorded vote of 123 to 1, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows: **10/**

**In favour:** **Afghanis** tan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, **Byelorussian** Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, **Côte d'Ivoire**, Cuba, Cyprus, **Czechoslovakia**,

**9/** Subsequently, the delegation of Mali indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of retaining the eighteenth preambular paragraph,

**10/** Subsequently, the delegation of Mali indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of retaining operative paragraph 8.



Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, **Denmark**, **Djibouti**, **Dominican Republic**, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, **German Democratic Republic**, **Ghana**, **Greece**, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, **Honduras**, Hungary, **Iceland**, India, Indonesia, Iran (**Islamic Republic of**), **Iraq**, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, **Lebanon**, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, **Morocco**, **Mozambique**, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, **Oman**, Pakistan, **Panama**, **Paraguay**, Peru, Philippines, **Poland**, **Qatar**, Romania, Rwanda, **Samoa**, **Saudi Arabia**, Senegal, Sierra Leone, **Singapore**, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, **Uganda**, **Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic**, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, **Venezuela**, **Viet Nam**, Yemen, **Yugoslavia**, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** United States of America.

**Abstaining:** Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

(d) Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.12/Rev.1, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 137 to 1 (see para. 14). The voting was as follows:

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, **Benin**, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, **Brazil**, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, **Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic**, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, **Chad**, Chile, China, Colombia, **Congo**, Costa Rica, **Côte d'Ivoire**, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, **Greece**, **Guatemala**, Guinea, **Guyana**, Honduras, **Hungary**, **Iceland**, **India**, Indonesia, Iran (**Islamic Republic of**), **Iraq**, **Ireland**, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, **Mozambique**, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, **Oman**, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, **Samoa**, **Saudi Arabia**, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, **Swaziland**, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** United States of America.

**B . Draft resolution A/C.1/43/2727**

8. On 31 October 1988, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C. 1/43/L. 27), which was later also sponsored by Australia. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Italy at the 28th meeting, on 7 November, and read as follows:

**"The General Assembly,**

**"Recalling its relevant resolutions and applicable provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 11/**

**"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, 12/ 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 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, install such weapons on celestial bodies or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner,**

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**11/ Resolution S-10/2.**

**12/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.**

"**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, 13/ 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;

"2. **Expresses its satisfaction** at the agreement reached in 1980 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. **Call 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 provisions1 agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

9. At the request of the **sponsors**, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.27.

C. Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.30

10. On 31 October 1988, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution entitled "\*Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/43/L.30), which was later also sponsored by Romania and the German Democratic Republic, and read as follows!

"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, 41/53 of 3 December 1986 and 42/33 of 30 November 1987,

"Taking into account the discussions that took place at the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament,

"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, 14/ as well as paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 15/

"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, and shall be the province of all mankind,

"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 Organisation,

"Emphasizing 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,

"Noting that the extension of the arms race to outer space would undermine international security and pose a threat to the interests of all States and the international community as a whole,

14/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

15/ Resolution S-10/2.

"**Mindful** that the extension of the arms race to outer space would entail, among other negative consequences, the squandering of vast resources urgently needed for the purposes of development, including the provision of tangible material aid to developing countries,

"**Acknowledging** the importance of ensuring strict verification of compliance with 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,

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

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

"**Convinced** 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,

"**Convinced also** that specific measures are needed for the prevention of an arms race in outer space and broad development of international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and exploitation of outer space,

"**Bearing in mind** the proposal to establish, on the basis of the Krasnoyarsk radar installation, a centre for international co-operation for the peaceful use of outer space and to incorporate it into the system of a World Space Organisation,

"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, above all the ABM Treaty of 1972;

"5. ~~Emphasises~~ the *urgent* need for the prohibition, halting of the development and destruction of ~~anti-ratollitr~~ 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 inopectfon 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. ~~Further calls upon~~ all States conducting space activities to be guided by the principles of openness and to promote the establishment and strengthening of *an* atmosphere of mutual trust;

"8. ~~Requests~~ the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit their views on the possibility to 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 Organisation, which would become an important component prrt of the machinery for internationalising the efforts of States to ensure security and co-operation and would fulfil the functionr both of verifying the prevention of a space arms race and of ao-ordinating the peaceful exploitation of outer space, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

"9. ~~Reiterates~~ that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, *hao* 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 to-establish an *ad hoc* committee at the beginning of its 1959 session with a view to undertaking without delay 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 report on 1 to consideration of this subject 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".

11. At the request of the sponsors, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.30.

**D. Draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.36**

12. On 30 October 1988, China submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (A/C.1/43/L.36), which read as follows:

**"The General Assembly,**

**"Reaffirming that outer space is the common heritage of mankind, and that the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the *Moon* and other celestial bodies, as a common aspiration of all countries in the world, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, and shall be the province of all mankind,**

**"Recalling the principles and objectives of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 16/ and in particular articles III and IV thereof,**

**"Further recalling paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 17/ and its relevant resolutions since 1981,**

**"Especially bearing in mind its resolution 42/33 of 30 November 1987,**

**"Convinced that the development of space weapons entails a qualitative escalation of the already serious arms race and poses a new threat to international peace and stability, and that to prevent the arms race in outer space has consequently become a new priority in the field of disarmament,**

**"Believing that the prohibition of space weapons constitutes an effective means to prevent the arms race in outer space,**

**"Fully taking note of the urgent demand of the international community that immediate and effective measures be taken to prevent an arms race in outer space,**

**"Affirming the need to consolidate and reinforce the legal régime applicable to outer space and recognizing that this legal régime, as such, is not sufficient to guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space,**

**"Also recognizes that with a view to achieving the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, measures may be considered in the following aspects, simultaneously or separately**

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**16/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex,**

**17/ Resolution S-10/2.**



"(a) Completely prohibit all types of space weapons, including anti-missile weapons and anti-satellite weapons, in order to realise the "non-weaponisation" of outer space,

"(b) Prohibit the use or threat of force and any other hostile actions or threat of such actions within outer space, against outer space from the Earth or from outer space against the Earth,

"Believing that the two States with the largest space capabilities bear a special responsibility for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"Taking note of the consideration of the question by the Conference on Disarmament, 18/

"Welcoming the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space by the Conference on Disarmament during its 1988 session,

"Noting with regret that the Ad Hoc Committee so far has not been able to start negotiations on an international agreement for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

"1. Calls upon all States, especially those with space capabilities, to contribute actively to the realisation of the objective of peaceful use of outer space and to adopt prompt and effective measures to prevent an arms race in outer space;

"2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body, to speed up the consideration of the question of preventing an arms race in outer space in all its aspects as a matter of priority and urgency, taking into account all the relevant draft resolutions and proposals;

"3. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish immediately an ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space with an adequate mandate at the outset of its 1989 session, with a view to initiating negotiations for concluding an international agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prohibition and destruction of all space weapons and on the prohibition of the use of force or hostile actions in, to or from outer space;

"4. Urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, the two major space Powers currently engaged in the development of space weapons, to refrain from developing, testing, producing and deploying space weapons, to destroy all their existing space weapons, to conduct serious bilateral negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to keep the Conference on Disarmament properly informed of the progress of these negotiations;

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18/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/43/27), sect. III.E.

"5. ~~Requests~~ the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all the documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

"6. ~~Requests~~ the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

"7. ~~Decides~~ to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms *race* in outer space".

13. At the request of the sponsor, no action was taken on draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.36.

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

14. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following 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 also 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 the obligation of all States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to refrain from the threat or use of force, including in their space activities,

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, <sup>19/</sup> have undertaken, in article III, to

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<sup>19/</sup> Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

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,

**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, **20/** 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,

**Noting** its resolution **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 **42/33** of 30 November 1987 and the relevant paragraphs of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, **21/**

**Recognizing** the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective,

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

**Encouraged** by the widespread interest expressed by Member States in the course of 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 and at its regular sessions and to the Conference on Disarmament,

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**20/** Resolution S-1012.

**21/** See A/41/697-6/10392, annex, paras. 36-39.

Noting the grave concern expressed by the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and **Peaceful Uses of Outer Space** at the **extension** of an arms race into outer space and the recommendations **22/** made to the competent organs of the United Nations, in particular the **General Assembly**, and also to the Conference on Disarmament,

Noting that, in 1988, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into **account its previous efforts** since its establishment, undertook the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Convinced that additional measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space,

Emphasizing the paramount **importance** of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Emphasizing the necessity of maintaining the effectiveness of relevant existing treaties and in this context reaffirming the vital importance of **a** strict compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,

Recooing that bilateral negotiations between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics could facilitate the multilateral negotiations for the prevention of an arms race in outer space in accordance with paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Noting the importance in this context of bilateral negotiations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America that have continued since 1985 and including at their summits in **Washington** and **Moscow** on a complex of questions concerning space and nuclear arms,

Hopeful that concrete results would emerge from these negotiations as soon as possible,

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts, in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space,

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**22/** 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.

**Taking note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to this question, 23/**

**Welcoming the re-establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space during the 1998 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. 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;**
- 2. Recognizes, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament, 24/ that the legal régime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that this legal régime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, the need to consolidate and reinforce that régime and enhance its effectiveness, and the importance of strict compliance with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;**
- 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. 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;**
- 6. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of preventing an arms race in outer space;**
- 7. 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 and**

23/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/43/27), sect. III.E.

24/ Ibid., para. 80.

initiatives, including those presented in the Ad Hoc Committee at the 1988 session of the Conference and at the forty-third session of the General Assembly;

8. Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its 1989 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;

9. 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;

10. 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;

11. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 25/ on the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space, submitted in accordance with resolution 42/33 of 30 November 1987;

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

13. 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;

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

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