

for enhancing the transparency of space activities, which is vital for any regime to promote confidence. Currently, the register set up under article IV requires only the following information concerning each space object:

- Name of launching State;
- Registration number;
- Date and location of launch;
- Basic orbital parameters (nodal period, inclination, etc.);
- General function of the space object.

In order to enhance knowledge of spacecraft, and in particular to clarify responsibilities in the event of an incident, France proposes that the register should also include the following information:

- The orbital characteristics of each satellite;
- Details of its manoeuvrability;
- Information on energy sources available on board;
- Certain other functional characteristics (mass, size, expected life of the space vehicle).

This could give concrete form to the possibility - provided for in article IV, paragraph 2 of the Convention - of furnishing the United Nations Secretary-General with additional information relating to the space object. In France's view, this broadening of the scope of the register should be effected on a voluntary, negotiated basis among the States parties. This would be in keeping with the proposals already made, inter alia, by Australia and Canada in 1988 (CD/OS/WP.25), Poland in 1989 (CD/OS/WP.38) and Argentina in 1990 (CD/1015 - CD/OS/WP.42), as well as the Federal Republic of Germany (Ad Hoc Committee, 17 July 1990). The latter proposed in particular that further information should be added to the register (authority responsible for launch and for control, presence or absence of weapons on board). France stands ready to give favourable consideration to adding these details to the registration Convention, as well as the possibility of informing the United Nations Secretary-General of launch forecasts.

Furthermore, since experience to date has been unsatisfactory, France calls upon the States parties to reduce the time taken to notify the Secretary-General of information and to update such information regularly. Lastly, it seeks an increase in the number of States parties to the Convention.