

The next question then becomes, where and how should these countries reach agreement. It is suggested that informal working groups first be set up to discuss security issues and space with the objective of preparing a draft treaty on the prohibition of space-based weapons.

### **Option 3**

Another alternative would be to create a new Group of Eleven (G11). In addition to the G-8, member countries would also include China, India and Brazil. A similar approach was recently adopted when the Group of Twenty (G20) was created in 1999,<sup>77</sup> “as a new mechanism for informal dialogue in the framework of the Bretton Woods institutional system, to broaden the dialogue on key economic and financial policy issues among systemically significant economies and to promote cooperation to achieve stable and sustainable world growth that benefits all”.

This would support those who feel that negotiation controls on space weapons can not be achieved in a body such as the CD because of its large membership, its consensus decision making process, and the non-representation of the interests of the private sector.

### **Option 4**

The international community could step back and leave discussions pertaining to non-weaponization and banning ASAT testing to the US, Russia and China.

Any treaty negotiated by the US, Russia and China on such questions should then be opened to all States for accession. There can be little doubt that a many countries would become party to such a treaty leading eventually to the emergence of a rule of customary law binding upon all states.

Nevertheless, despite the special responsibility of the US, Russia and China in the area of space arms control, the community of nations must participate at the multilateral level in efforts to curb weapons in space.

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<sup>77</sup> G20 Meetings and related Documents, <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca>