

immediately after launch and updates as required during the whole time of the existence of an object in outer space. Manoeuvres of space objects should be announced in advance. This delegation was of the opinion that acquisition of data on orbital parameters and mission activities could best be performed by an International Processing and Information Centre. It was suggested that the Committee should contribute to a comprehensive space management system with its core - a legal protection régime for space objects. This régime would require internationally binding provisions for the conduct of space activities and a reliable verification procedure. A structured debate on these subjects could include: (a) Notification - (b) Code of conduct/Rules-of-the-Road - (c) Inspection In order to facilitate this work, the assistance of experts could be sought.

52. Many delegations referred to the questions concerning the functioning of the Registration Convention and pointed out that this Convention, as mentioned in its preamble, has to be seen in the context of developing international law governing the exploration and use of outer space and therefore had direct relevance to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. One delegation of the Group of 21 referred in detail to its proposal on the strengthening of the régime established by the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (CD/1015-CD/OS/WP.42). It affirmed that in spite of the fact that the Convention cannot be described per se as a disarmament or arms limitation agreement, it provides specific information about the nature and functions of objects launched into space, thus constituting an indispensable database for any subsequent development designed to generate confidence in the uses of outer space. That delegation pointed out that the concrete results of the implementation of the Convention fall far short of the most modest hopes, as the flow of information generated by the application of the Treaty has proved to be scanty, incomplete and tardy. However, the delegation concerned considered that the potential of the instrument continues to be vast. In specific terms it indicated that the changes in the régime should apply on two levels, one being the scope of the information to be provided and the other the timeliness. Additional parameters and information should be added to the items already present in article IV of the Convention and to that effect a duly mandated Expert Group under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Committee should be entrusted with the responsibility to devise those criteria. Finally, the delegation responsible for this proposal stressed that a more precise register would be necessary for the subsequent formulation of régimes to protect