

Sweden has proposed that an expert group be established under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. Such a group should discuss the feasibility of relevant measures to prevent an arms race in outer space. It should also consider verification of compliance with such measures, as well as focus on questions pertaining to the establishment of an international system for satellite monitoring satellites.

The question of verification is of crucial importance and will have to be subject to detailed studies by experts in the field. Examples of methods of verification are, in particular, on-site inspection as well as satellite tracking and data collection. Inspection of a satellite from the ground could, at least in the case of low earth orbit, be performed by the help of telescopes with modern electro-optical sensors. Other means could be various radar devices. In the context of verification by means of satellites the Canadian PAXSAT "A" concept is of great relevance. Consideration should also be given to the establishment of an international satellite agency, taking into account the various proposals that over the years have been made in the United Nations and in the Conference on Disarmament. Such an agency could have at its disposal a network of observation stations and make use of common data bases.

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There are thus several measures that the Conference on Disarmament could usefully negotiate, namely:

- a comprehensive ban on dedicated ASAT-weapons;
- an agreement banning the testing in an ASAT-mode of various types of non-dedicated systems;
- appropriate verification régimes and an international satellite monitoring system;
- confidence-building measures, including rules of the road.

These measures should be urgently introduced, given the risks of vertical and horizontal proliferation of dedicated and non-dedicated ASAT-capabilities, as well as the dangers posed by possible non-intentional harmful interferences with satellites. These measures should be subject to multilateral negotiations in the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, that is to say the Conference on Disarmament, and more precisely in its Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

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