

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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## WORKING PAPER

### FRANCE

#### PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN SPACE: CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES AND TRANSPARENCY

In its arms control and disarmament plan of 3 June 1991 (CD/1079), France reaffirmed the need for "the development of outer-space confidence-building measures in the form of a 'code of conduct' for civilian and military satellites". In addition, it proposed the establishment of regional agencies responsible for transparency, which could receive and use satellite images in the context of regional agreements on confidence and security.

The objectives to which these proposals are directed are well known. They underlay the French memorandum on the military uses of space submitted to the Conference on Disarmament on 14 April 1983 (CD/375). This memorandum advocated the progressive development of a stable and clear space regime, by means of the strengthening of the existing system of information on space objects and promotion of the principle of immunity granted to certain space objects. France, which upholds its 1978 proposal for an international satellite monitoring agency (ISMA) and its 1988 proposal for a satellite image processing agency (SIPA), is convinced that a regional approach to the use of satellite images could make a decisive contribution to strengthening confidence and security.

The approach proposed by France would, in its view, enhance the security of peaceful activities in space (and indirectly prevent the use of space for

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