

POSSIBLE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ROADMAPS

Though outer space is recognized as the province of all mankind, and, in theory, all states should have an equal say in its regulation, the reality of space activities dictates that there are a few states with very specific interests and concerns. A "limited group" approach to treaty negotiations could bring together those parties indispensable to a successful agreement. Once agreement is reached between this "limited group", it becomes much easier to open the treaty for signature to a larger number of countries.

It is suggested that as a first step towards prohibiting space-based weapons, a "layered" approach to negotiations be adopted with appropriate discussions held in several forums. Though constructive contributions can be made in large bodied international forums such as the CD, negotiations on issues pertaining primarily to space and security stand a greater chance of success if initiated amongst a smaller group of countries more active in space activities.

Option 1

One possible model could be that followed for nuclear test ban negotiations in the late '50s and early '60s. Discussions on this issue started within the confines of a Trilateral Test Ban Conference composed of the US, the USSR and the UK. The test ban negotiations were later transferred to a subcommittee of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee (ENDC). The Limited Test Ban Treaty is one of the few arms limitation agreements of universal applications.

A Conference of Experts to discuss banning space-based weapons could be convened. The Experts could come from the five Permanent Members of the Security Council plus Canada, Germany, Japan and India. The Conference could be held in Canada. The Group of Experts would from the on-set have a clear understanding that their work would pave the way for a treaty ultimately negotiated in the CD. Specific timetables with meetings would also need to be followed.

Option 2

Increasingly, governments (particularly the US) are dependent on the commercial space sector to provide essential services for national security purposes. Thus, national security aspects and export control restrictions are both the same aspect of an overall national policy in terms of a country's approach to space.

In view of the intrinsic dual-use nature of space technology and the growing interrelationship between commercial space activities and players on the one hand, and military activities on the other hand, an alternative model could be to initiate discussions within the G-8. The topic should not be limited to space and security but rather space in a global context. Advantages of such an approach would include having input at the very start of discussions into the question of regulations of dual-use technology, from players in the commercial side of space activities.

It is suggested that the Group of Eight (G-8) could act as a vehicle to advance issues of space and security. A Working Group or Panel of Experts could be set up to discuss a wide range of issues such as, *inter alia*, technology transfer controls, space-related incentives such as