

context that one relevant paragraph of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament (paragraph 31) states that "Disarmament and arms limitation agreements should provide for adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned in order to create the necessary confidence and ensure that they are being observed by all parties. The form and modalities of the verification to be provided for in any specific agreement depend upon and should be determined by the purposes, scope and nature of the agreement. Agreements should provide for the participation of parties directly or through the United Nations system in the verification process. Where appropriate, a combination of several methods of verification as well as other compliance procedures should be employed".

42. Some delegations, noting the inadequacy of the information furnished to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the 1975 Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, suggested the need to consider ways and means of improving the implementation and, as appropriate, augmenting the provisions of the Convention so that the international community may have detailed information on the nature and purposes of space activities. They believed that this would be a valuable confidence-building measure and would facilitate verification.

43. Some delegations also mentioned suggestions concerning the possibility of developing, as a confidence-building measure, "rules of the road" for space objects.

44. Some delegations believed that, in view of the advanced technology involved in the exploration and use of outer space, and the fact that only a few States were in a position to benefit therefrom, it was necessary in the consideration of proposals to contemplate ways and means of strengthening international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, so that all States would have access to all areas of space technology without discrimination to promote their economic and social development according to their needs, interests and priorities. It was also suggested that surveillance and reconnaissance activities by satellite should be entrusted to an international body that could set up data banks from which any country would be able to obtain information relevant to its needs. Such a body could also be used to provide advance information on crisis situations, so as to enhance the crisis management role of the United Nations.