

42. Sharing these views, delegations of a group of Socialist States underlined that the non-deployment of weapons in space should be effectively verified. They supported the creation of a world space organization which would, inter alia, perform verification functions. They were also convinced of the necessity to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, a mechanism for wide-ranging verification of various disarmament agreements, such as an international verification agency (IVA). When established, the International Verification Agency would co-ordinate and verify compliance with agreements and treaties on specific aspects of the limitation, reduction and elimination of armaments. It could also be entrusted with the task of verifying compliance with agreements on the reduction of international tension. Another function of the agency could be to monitor the military situation in regions of conflict, with a view to taking measures to prevent military conflicts. These delegations were convinced that as applied to space, verification was called upon to ensure a resolution of two interrelated, major problems: first, to ensure a non-deployment of any weapons in space, i.e. to preserve outer space free of arms; second, to help in detecting breaches of present and future agreements aimed at preventing an arms race in space. For the purposes of solving the first problem - preventing deployment of any arms in space - the Ad Hoc Committee had the proposal entitled "Establishment of an international system of verification of the non-deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space" (CD/817). The main purpose of such a system would be to determine that objects to be launched into and stationed in space were not weapons and were not equipped with weapons of any kind. Its central element would be an international space inspectorate upon which the States parties to the agreement would confer the right of access, for inspection purposes, to any objects intended to be launched into and stationed in outer space. In order to ensure a complete ban on space weapons, measures of verification with the aid of the international space inspectorate should include, inter alia, advance submission by the receiving State to the representatives of the international space inspectorate of information on every forthcoming launch, including the date and time of launch, the type of launch vehicle, the parameters of the orbit and general information on the space object to be launched; the permanent presence of inspection teams at all sites for launching space objects in order to check all such objects irrespective of the vector; and the verification of undeclared launches from undeclared launching pads by means of extraordinary on-site inspections without right of refusal. They were convinced that on-site inspection carried out immediately prior to launchings was the most simple and effective way to be sure that objects placed into space did not carry weapons of any kind. Despite the very complex nature of space technology the verification of the presence or absence of means of warfare on a space object seemed to be relatively simple. So far, launching sites in the world were not so many, a space launch complex was something that could not be hidden, and the permanent presence of international inspectors at these launching sites would be a reliable guarantee that objects launched into space were not weapons and did not carry weapons of any kind. All States conducting space activities would be put in an absolutely equal situation while the permanent control on the part of international inspectors would guarantee the reliability of verification. Thus, the problem of preventing arms in outer space could be considered on the basis of the proposal on the international space inspectorate. The problem of a different kind, related to the previous one - detecting cases of arms already put into space - could be tackled on the basis of other proposals. The PAXSAT concept seemed to be worthy of attention.