

vehicles. The information is to be pooled in a Joint Data Exchange Center. The MOU clearly stipulates that once implemented, the Parties will seek the participation of other countries. Thus, multilateralization of such data is "built into" the MOU.

The CD could also try to achieve a working agreement on the scope of the terms such as "militarization" and "weaponization". Many States share the view that "militarization" may be taken to denote the use of space military support or enhancement systems, which do not have any capability to damage, destroy or otherwise interfere with other space objects or objects on the earth or in the atmosphere. Such support systems include satellites for communications, detection, early warning, intelligence gathering, navigation, reconnaissance and tracking.

"Weaponization" could be described as crossing the boundary between force support and force application. The latter would deal with the use of lethal or destructive force, from, to or in space.<sup>75</sup>

Finally, the recent Canadian proposal of appointing a Special Coordinator within the CD should also be pursued. This person should then either serve as the liaison between the CD and COPUOS or establish a mechanism allowing for the exchange of information between these two bodies.

### **C. Role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**

The General Assembly decided in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997 to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) in Vienna from 19-30 July 1999, under the theme "Space Benefits for Humanity in the Twenty-First Century". States participating in UNISPACE III adopted the **Space Millenium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development**.

In its preamble, the Declaration also recognizes the significant changes in the structure and content of world space activity, as reflected in the increasing number of participants in space activities at all levels and the growing contribution of the private sector in the promotion and implementation of space activities.

COPUOS has recognized that it must embark on a re-evaluation of the existing body of space law, and assess if it is still adequate in regulating the space activities of States and other entities governed by the respective rules, particularly in light of the explosive growth of private commercial space activities.

It has recently taken measures to involve in particular the industries and organizations engaged in private, commercial space activities, with the purpose of reviewing and analyzing the way in which the present regulatory regime affects their present and future operations. This type of exchange would certainly contribute to improve mutual understanding of the global space market and their potential consequences for all countries looking for taking benefit of the application of space technologies.

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<sup>75</sup> Watts, B., "The Military Use of Space: a Diagnostic Approach", <http://www.csbaonline.org>