

- Host country personnel can be placed on-board an airborne platform to ensure that illicit data collection does not take place.
- Civilian technology or non-sensitive military technology can be used since it should not be necessary to operate from excessive stand-off distances or at the high speeds which might be required for reconnaissance in hostile territory.
- Multilateral agreements are made more verifiable and acceptable for all concerned by reducing the requirement for national satellite-based systems.

### (III) Reconnaissance Capability

- Countries without their own satellite systems, could develop an airborne reconnaissance capability over which they have control. They could operate independently or cooperatively.
- Possession of such a reconnaissance capability by a number of countries would likely relieve pressures on countries with their own national satellite-based capabilities to make data available.
- An airborne capability working in an Open Skies scenario would provide an opportunity for those countries with NTMs to restructure and to allow the limited satellite-based assets to be directed elsewhere.

### (IV) Cost-Effectiveness

- Nations are more likely to be able to build up an indigenous airborne capability than satellite-based capability.
- Airborne coverage is likely to be cheaper than satellite-based coverage once the costs of the infrastructure for satellite construction, launching, control, etc. are factored in.
- In ball-park figures, for example, an airborne capability to meet the requirements in Central Europe, is estimated to be approximately 1/20 the cost of a space-based system.

### **Conclusion**

The proposed Open Skies regime would allow the observing country to fly its own non-combat surveillance aircraft over the country it wishes to observe, with appropriate advance notice. It would permit aircraft, equipped with a variety of sensors, to fly anywhere desired, limited only by the same flight safety considerations applying to flights by other aircraft.