

bilateral agreements to satellites that served as national technical means of verification, a "rules-of-the-road" agreement, the reaffirmation and further elaboration of the principle of non-interference with peaceful space activities and the elaboration of a code of conduct in outer space to prevent the risks and fears that could arise from certain manoeuvres of space objects.

53. One delegation noted that international legal instruments already existed to ensure the immunity of satellites. This delegation stated that these instruments prohibited the use of force and the threat of the use of force against satellites except in cases of self-defence. This delegation noted, however, that these instruments were not intended to compromise the inherent right of sovereign States to take adequate measures to protect themselves in the event of the threat or use of force.

54. In the view of a number of delegations, it was imperative to create a coherent set of confidence-building measures in relation to activities in outer space and this could be achieved by initiating a process of data exchange (along the lines of CD/OS/WP.25). Stressing the non-compulsary character of possible measures, one delegation subjected to detailed analysis several articles of the Outer Space Treaty and Registration Convention, which contained "points of contact" or "starting points" capable of serving as a framework for this set of measures.

55. One delegation expressed its conviction that its concept of a "rules-of-the-road" agreement would be a useful contribution to the creation of a solid future space order as well as the prevention of an arms race in outer space. In its view, the main components of that agreement would be: restrictions on very low altitude overflight by manned or unmanned spacecraft; new stringent requirements for advanced notice of launch activities; specific rules for agreed and possibly defended keep-out zones; grant or restriction of the right of inspection; limitation on high-velocity fly-bys or trailing of foreign satellites; established means by which to obtain timely information and consultations concerning ambiguous or threatening activities. More detailed views on those components were contributed by an independent expert from that country.

56. Many delegations focussed on the importance of transparency in the activities of States and of accurate information on how outer space was being used. The view was expressed by some delegations that there was a need for expert examination of the parameters on which information should be provided and it was suggested that a group of experts be set up for that purpose. Some