

3 - Rules of behaviour

The aim of a "code of conduct", as advocated by France (CD/937) and by Germany (CD/PV.345 and 516), is to guarantee the security of space activities while preventing the use of space for aggressive purposes. From the viewpoint of the prevention of an arms race, what is most important is to be able at any time to distinguish an incident of fortuitous or accidental origin from the result of specific aggression. To that end, it is suggested that a set of rules of behaviour should be drawn up, which might include:

- an obligation to regularly update orbital parameters declared at the time of registration, to take account of manoeuvres and drift;
- respecting minimum distances between two satellites placed in the same orbit (in order to avoid not only accidental collisions but also short-range co-orbital tracking, which is a precondition for the system of space mines);
- monitoring of short-range intersections (also to limit risks of collision or interference).

Combined with a strengthened registration procedure, such a set of rules should provide better information on a continuous basis concerning potential threats to each satellite, and prevent aggression by making it impossible for such aggression to go unpunished because of failure to determine its precise origin. These rules might be supplemented by:

- the above-mentioned measure relating to information on launches scheduled by States;
- a procedure providing for requests for explanations in the event of an incident or suspicious activities;
- the identification of keep-out zones in the form of two spherical zones moving with each satellite:
 - a proximity zone to delimit the location of each space object in reciprocal orbit, as well as the capabilities of each object to move with respect to the others;
 - a wider approach zone, with obligatory notification for passage through it.

4 - Measures to provide information on the occasion of the launching of space objects

In 1989, Poland suggested (CD/OS/WP.38) that it would be useful, in the field of the prevention of an arms race in outer space, to draw on experience