

## CONCLUSION

The major concerns about the potential directions of military space activities revolve around, *inter alia*, the following trends:

- proliferation of ballistic missile technology;
- proliferation of ABM systems in space;
- increasing application of space-based systems to support terrestrial combat;
- potential deployment of ASAT weapons due to the growing importance and relevance of space terrestrial operations;
- constraints on civilian uses of outer space due to military considerations.

All these issues are related and can not be resolved in isolation of each other. All have been touched upon both bilaterally between the US and Russia, but also in multilateral forums such as the MTCR, COPUOS and the CD.

No single forum and no single treaty could effectively address all of the issues that have been raised concerning military uses of outer space. A constructive approach to these issues will require a pragmatic balance between national interests and international needs/cooperation, and considerations of national security.

The world has witnessed considerable growth in the commercialization and privatization of space-related activities. This trend has led to significant increases in the number of non-state actors involved in the exploration and use of outer space, as well as the number of different activities in which they are engaged. The growing use by the military of civilian satellite systems for arms control and intelligence gathering will continue to grow.

With the Cold War behind us, the world expects to enjoy the benefits of the peaceful exploitation of space technology. It would not welcome a new round in the space race which would diminish the likelihood of using space for better education, economic growth and improved quality of life around the world.

The CD may not at this point in time be the appropriate forum to initiate discussions on a treaty banning space weapons (regardless of where they are based) or a treaty banning space-based weapons outer space. A limited group of countries with active space programs should initiate the process with a view of then submitting any draft agreement to the CD for a truly multilateral approach. Canada should lead this effort.