

questions that have obvious legal implications. Among these are how to select a procedure and structure within which to properly implement the agreement, and consequently the underlying international cooperation. One of the proposals being considered would effectively give an international council, consisting of an equal number of representatives from each partner, an important role in supervising the activities and managing the space station program. This council could even intervene to resolve differences of opinion that might arise between partners respecting the terms and conditions of the agreement. This subject is of course tied in with that of dispute-settling mechanisms.

Given the political and economic importance of this program some partners, including Canada, feel that the multi-level consultation procedures among those responsible for the agencies, the members of the council and finally the representatives of the countries themselves, should be completed by a binding arbitration mechanism. The above two proposals have not yet received the consent of all parties to the negotiations.

Realizing that the terms of the Convention on Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects of 1972 related to claims made by third states when damage was caused by all or part of the space station to that state or one of its nationals, the partners nonetheless undertook to establish how they would react should such damage occur. In the Convention on Liability, states cooperating in a joint space project may determine between themselves the way in which they will handle harmful