

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript*551st Meeting

Wednesday, 7 June 2006, 3 p.m.

Vienna

*Chairman: Mr. G. Brachet (France)**The meeting was called to order at 3.17 p.m.*

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I call the 551st meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to order.

This afternoon, we will continue our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, and we shall begin our consideration of agenda item 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

Attendance by non-members of the Committee

Before we return to our examination of item 5, I should like, distinguished delegates, to inform the Committee that I have received a request from Tunisia, seeking permission to attend the current session of the Committee as an observer. I, therefore, suggest that, in conformity with past practice, we invite the representative of Tunisia to attend the current session and to address the Committee as appropriate.

This is, of course, without prejudice to further requests of this nature and this does not involve any decisions of the Committee concerning status. Might I recall that it is a courtesy that we customarily extend to such delegations.

Do I see any objections?

I see none.

It is so decided.

General exchange of views (agenda item 5)

We, therefore, return to our examination of item 5, General Exchange of Views, and I would like to continue our consideration of this agenda item.

And I recognize the distinguished representative of Malaysia, the first speaker on my list, Mr. Mustafa Subari.

Mr. M. SUBARI (Malaysia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to join other member States in expressing our delegation's great pleasure in congratulating France in the Chair of this meeting, and Hungary and Burkina Faso as First Vice-Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman, respectively. We are also indebted to you for giving Malaysia the opportunity to chair the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and technical Subcommittee.

We would also like to express our deep appreciation to the dedication and efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, under the able leadership of Dr. Sergio Camacho-Lara for their untiring efforts in ensuring the smooth running of this meeting.

Before we begin our statement, we would like to express heartfelt condolence to the people of the republic of Indonesia on the recent earthquake in the region of Central Java, which has killed and injured thousand of innocent life and making thousands more homeless and reprieved of basic necessities of life. The Malaysian Government has responded to this tragedy by sending the search and rescue SMART team plus the medical team for aids but we felt that this effort is insignificant compared to the real amount of assistance that was needed.

In its resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that, beginning with its thirty-ninth session, the Committee would be provided with unedited transcripts in lieu of verbatim records. This record contains the texts of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages as transcribed from taped recordings. The transcripts have not been edited or revised.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week of the date of publication, to the Chief, Conference Management Service, Room D0771, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Corrections will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.



Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, within the same breath, my delegation would like to highlight on the infrastructure, the early warning system for tsunamis generated in the Indian Ocean, South China Sea or the Pacific Ocean that we have reported last year, has been put in place. This system, the National Tsunami Early Warning System, is maintained by the Malaysian Meteorological Department of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. The system consisted of a network of seismological stations throughout the country and three data buoys with seabed-mounted tsunami detection modules deployed at strategic locations in the North-West Straits of Malacca, South China Sea and Sulu Sea.

We have also, Mr. Chairman, on 27 and 28 April of this year, organized a Roundtable Discussion of Earthquake and Tsunami Risks in the South China Sea with the cooperation of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC, of UNESCO.

Within this important issue also, Mr. Chairman, we would like to express our full support to the effort organized by Japan on the Sentinel-Asia project for establishing Disaster Management Support System in the Asia-Pacific Region. We would definitely be more than ready to contribute to this important endeavour.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, our Mission Operations Facility at the National Space Agency, has been completed and operational in December 2005. With the Telemetry, Tracking and Control in place, we have been able to participate in LEOPs of the GIOVE-A, a test-bed satellite for the Galileo, a European Union Global Navigation Satellite System currently under development. The Image Receiving System has also been completed and operational, which currently is being configured to receive MODIS data from the Terra and Aqua satellites. It is a bit unfortunate, though, Mr. Chairman, that our Earth observation satellite, the RazakSAT launches has been postponed to early 2007, due to some technical problems of the launcher.

The planning of our Assembly, Integration and Test, AIT, Facility and Space Science Lab at the Malaysian Space Centre is progressing well. The calibration lab that consists of the Integrating Sphere is now operational. RazakSAT's camera will undergo calibration in the next few weeks. Upon completion of the AIT Facility, it will have, among others, a large thermal vacuum chamber, acoustic chamber, EMC facility, large and small electrodynamic shaker and mass property measurement system. With these

facilities in place, we will be then able to fabricate and test our satellites system.

The National Observatory at Langkawi, Malaysia, which will become an important infrastructure within our space science research activities, has been completed in May this year. We are currently in the process of connecting the facility with the global networks of remotely operated observatory.

It is also a pleasure for us to announce that in June 2007, we will be hosting the International Young Astronomers School, ISYA2007, 6 to 27 March 2007, in collaboration with the International Astronomical Union, IAU, as part of the International Heliophysical Year, IHY, 2007 celebrations. This established international programme will be attended by about 30 young astronomers from the Asia-Pacific region with 12 renowned scholars of astronomers from abroad.

Mr. Chairman, we are happy to announce here that Malaysia will be hosting the Third United Nations ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific on 5 to 10 February 2006. For that, we would like to extend our invitation for member States within the region to participate in this important meeting.

Thank you for now, Mr. Chairman. Our delegation will provide more information under the coming relevant agenda items.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I should like to thank you Sir for your statement and the information that you have conveyed to us on the state of advance of your space activities in Malaysia with regards to setting up a tsunami prevention or alert network and also your information on the Malaysian satellite. And we wish you all the best for the launch due to take place in 2007. Thank you again for your contribution Sir.

I now recognize the Russian Federation, Mr. Gonchar.

Mr. D. V. GONCHAR (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all, let my delegation congratulate you on your election to this position of great authority. We wish you every success in your work.

Further, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the outgoing Chairman of the Committee,

Mr. Abiodun, for his wisdom and experience went a long way towards letting this important body be very successful over the past two years.

As many of the speakers noted before me, this year, we have celebrated the forty-fifth anniversary of the first manned mission into outer space. In that connection, I would like to congratulate our colleagues and good neighbours, the delegations of Kazakhstan and Ukraine, whose representatives made a direct and extremely contribution to the historic spaceflight by Yuri Gagarin.

Furthermore, I would like to congratulate the representatives of the United States of America on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first Shuttle mission into outer space.

Mr. Chairman, the Russian Federation has traditionally, and consistently, come out for dialogue on all issues pertaining to international cooperation in the exploration and the use of outer space. We proceed from the conviction that multilateral coordination of space activities strengthens the mutual trust among States, promotes interaction among them in other areas of international cooperation as well.

We believe that the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has the greatest potential for tackling the issues of space cooperation which are of common interest to all States. Unfortunately, we have to note that recently we have heard more and more alarming trends which might eventually result in the deployment of weapons in outer space and that would ineluctably lead to suspicion and tension among States and would destroy the climate of trust and cooperation in space exploration.

In that context, we have strongly come out for stepping up the debate on maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes within the framework of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman, the role of COPUOS in developing and adopting international legal instruments underlining international space law is unquestionable. This largely has to do with the Committee's tradition of always looking for compromise. The result of that, first and foremost, is the fact that, from its very inception, and until the present time, the Committee has worked and has made decisions on the basis of consensus. Furthermore, the United Nations was the organizer of three global fora specifically on international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space. The changes that have occurred in recent years, serious changes, in the

nature of space actors and the kinds of space activities they pursue, have highlighted the existing lacunae in international space law which have a negative impact on the further development of human activities in outer space. This, coupled with the increased negative effects of man's activity on outer space environment, point to the need to further strengthen the international basis for space law.

Therefore, with the support of a number of States, also members of COPUOS, we have proposed starting work on a comprehensive United Nations convention on international space law. Such a convention could be based on the existing international space law, norms and standards and would make it possible to consider all aspects of space exploration and the use of space technologies and techniques in the context of an integral hull(?). The result of that work should be a well-balanced, thoroughly written text, taking into account the interests of all participants in outer space activities.

Mr. Chairman, going on to the specific items on the agenda before us, my delegation would like to note the importance of the work accomplished and the results achieved with regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, and the issue of space debris, particularly in the course of the February session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS.

The Russian delegation values very highly the Joint Technical Workshop held this year on the Objectives, Scope and Possible Technological Framework for Ensuring the Safe Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. As well as the draft document prepared by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on Space Debris Mitigation. In this connection, we would like to emphasize the need for a thorough technical review of possible procedures for monitoring compliance with space debris mitigation requirements. We believe it would be extremely important to thoroughly take into account all comments and feedback that will be received after the national distribution of Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, as well as any other new information on that issue, specifically information on the relationship that exists between space debris and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to note especially our appreciation of the informative and active discussion that took place at the most recent session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS on the matter of the registration of space objects by States and international organizations as well as the status and

application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. This discussion demonstrates that the interest in the development of international space law on the part of COPUOS member States has steadily increased. In that context, we call for giving our support to the suggestion made by the delegations of Russian, Ukraine and Kazakhstan in the Legal Subcommittee's session to issue a questionnaire on the further ways of developing international space law.

The issue of the definition and delimitation of outer space, which was also actively discussed at the Legal Subcommittee's session, is worthy of close attention, in our view. Specifically, this was demonstrated by the work that led up to the Plenary session of the Disarmament Conference, starting in Geneva as we speak. It will touch upon a number of issues that directly relate to this matter. And this, once again, highlights the importance of finding an early compromise approach to the solution of this problem.

Mr. Chairman, I have already mentioned the fact that this year has seen a number of anniversaries of milestones in space activities. The next year, 2007, will also have a number of important dates, important for the history of space exploration.

Next year, we are going to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the pioneer of space exploration, as we know it, the creator of rocket motion theory, Russian scientist, Konstantin Siolkovski(?).

As well as the Centenary of the birth of the Soviet design of the first space rocket systems, which were used to make the first manned spaceflights in history and the first-ever time when man stepped out into outer space. I am referring, of course, to Sergei Korolov(?).

Another important date, obviously, is the fiftieth anniversary of the launch of the first satellite.

To mark these festive dates, the Russian Federation plans to hold a number of scientific and technological, as well as educational events, including those that will be internationally attended. The Russian delegation will make a special presentation in the course of this session of COPUOS.

At this point, I would like to take this opportunity and invite all interested delegations, as well as representatives of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, to take part in these events.

Mr. Chairman, the Russian delegation reserves the right to take the floor again and address the various items on the agenda as we come to them.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Gonchar for your statement. As we all know, Russia is a major actor in the outer space arena and the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation has reminded all of us of the extremely useful and constructive contribution made to our debate, be it the legal aspects, safety standards for the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, the issue of space debris, and, of course, again, our friends from the Russian Federation have mentioned and will speak again about the programme of events planned for next year to mark the various anniversaries related to outer space exploration.

I think we have received a question from Ambassador González of Chile. Ambassador?

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a question. It has to do with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

Before I ask my question, however, let me congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to this important post and I thank and commend your predecessor.

I believe that small countries, like mine, also have an important role to play in the work of this Committee, even though we do not have space technology as such. We hope to be able to make our own significant contribution towards international cooperation in outer space.

And let me, once again, point out the following, in the wake of the Russian representative's statement.

We support the suggestion that outer space law should be brought up to date in the ways that have been described here. When we look at the existing outer space treaties, which are subject of an ongoing discussion within the Legal Subcommittee, we have to admit that some of these instruments are outdated and have to be reviewed and brought up to date in conformity with the recent breakthroughs in science and technology.

It has to be pointed out that some of these instruments have existed as a thing on to itself, not sufficiently open and not sufficiently in keeping with the spirit of outer space exploration and the truly international spirit of outer space exploration. I am thinking in particular of my country, of other countries of Latin America, we really need a free flow of information, an opportunity to share in the latest breakthroughs and accomplishments. It is a sort of a paradox that those countries that are always speaking out in favour of the freedom of information, free exchange, free trade and so on and so forth, seem to forget those same ideological principles when it is a matter relating to what they perceive as their own national security. As a result, often times, existing principles and instruments, underlying space activities, remain a dead letter and are not truly applied in practice, or are applied in a selective way. We all know very well the kind of problems that I am referring to.

Perhaps the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS, its Working Group on Outer Space Law, could tackle these issues in a more practical and immediate way. I know a number of delegations would be quite interested in participating in such work. Some very important events have already taken place, such as the Legal Seminar held in Bangalore, India, on matters pertaining to outer space law. There is a lot of information available in the world.

But if we look at the existing legal instruments, we see a number of contradictions, lack of logic, or lack of logical connection between what is enshrined in these treaties and what constitutes the actual day-to-day practice of outer space activities in terms of the disparity between outer space powers, or space-faring nations, and smaller nations that do not benefit from space technologies. We believe that the interest of all countries are important. Our interests are as important as the interests of those States that actually possess outer space technology. The matter has been discussed on many occasions and in great detail but the fact remains that we need to come up with a practical mechanism of revising existing treaties and the way they are applied. This is badly needed important work and it should result in an updating of all aspects of outer space law, taking into account the appearance of new actors in the international arena, new technologies. Next year we are going to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Space Treaty and 50 years is an eternity in terms of space exploration, where now an updating is badly needed. We know there are many things in today's space activities that really do not satisfy us. When I say us, I mean developing countries.

These issues should be in the forefront of our attention and it should be reflected in the report of this Committee's session. We, specifically countries of Latin America, are making this statement while being fully aware of the effort required in that regard, a huge effort.

We have tried to do our part by convening the Space Conference of the Americas in Quito in June of this year, in Quito, Ecuador. I have been to Quito at the invitation of the Government of Ecuador and I have seen, with my own eyes, the enthusiasm, the energetic, dynamic way that Ecuador and other Latin American countries are preparing for this Conference. So there is no doubt that it will be a major milestone in the history of international cooperation of outer space.

I would also like to recall the results of the Preparatory Meeting held in Cartagena, Colombia, which was very important, which has led to a number of important steps, both within the framework of the United Nations and broadly in the international arena.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the matter of regional cooperation, pooling our efforts over specific issues, specific goals and objectives, is the way to proceed. And in that regard, the Quito Conference, we believe, will be a major step in the right direction.

Having said that, we are somewhat surprised to see that the 2005 United Nations document on Development makes no mention of some of the most important regional cooperation activities that we have undertaken in our part of the world. And this is not just to do with outer space but the use of space and space-related technologies for things here on Earth, such as early warning, natural disasters, tele-medicine, earthquake prediction and so on and so forth. There is nothing in that document. And that is unfortunate, in our view.

The next report of that nature for 2006 will focus on science and technology especially and it is absolutely imperative that the issues that I have raised be considered there. I do not know why they have been disregarded in the past. Maybe it is the lack of political will, maybe it is something else. But the use of space-based technologies for very important and, indeed, essential objectives of sustainable development and raising the well-being of our nations in our part of the world, have been overlooked. I believe it is really of paramount importance, Mr. Chairman, for us to make sure that this situation is rectified, that these matters are duly considered, not just by this Committee but by other agencies of the United Nations and its

General Assembly, that these matters, these issues become visible and prominent in the eyes of the international community.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank Ambassador Raimundo González for his contribution. I think the contribution that this Committee can make to the United Nations Report on Sustainable Development is something that we should come back to and the fact that space activities are not mentioned in the most recent version of that report is regrettable and we, as a Committee, should make an effort to convey the necessary information, the necessary messages to the editorial staff of this annual report. The role of space activities in sustainable development should be highlighted.

I am now going to call upon Ambassador Guoqiang Tang of China.

Mr. G. TANG (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Mr. Chairman, first of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this session of COPUOS. We believe that, under the guidance of you and other members of the Bureaux and with the common efforts and cooperation of all members of the Committee, this session will successfully accomplish its tasks, thus contributing to the peaceful use of outer space and international cooperation. The Chinese delegation will, as always, actively support and participate in various activities of this Committee, to ensure the success of the session.

Mr. Chairman, China's development in the space sector during the past 50 years tells us that advances in space technology and its applications can lead to a quantum leap in relevant scientific fields and the overall technological capacity, through which national economy, scientific and technological development and the living standard of the population can be fostered and the final objective of benefiting the whole mankind can be realized.

Over the past year, China achieved new successes in its space effort. Apart from the successful launches of the telecommunications satellites Asia-Pacific-6, scientific experiment satellite SHIJIAN-7 and two other recoverable satellites, we sent yet another manned spacecraft, Shenzhou-6, with two astronauts aboard into space in October 2005, subsequent to the successful flight of Shenzhou-5. After five days of flight around the Earth, it landed safely and became our first space experiment with the

participation of multiple crew members and the anticipated results were achieved.

In addition, the Chinese Government continues to carry out international cooperation and exchanges with other countries, space agencies and international space organizations in the areas of space technology and applications on the basis of peaceful use, equality and mutual benefit, complementarity and common progress. In 2005, the Chinese Government successfully hosted the Asia Disaster Reduction Conference in Beijing, which adopted the Beijing Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia.

It is noteworthy that the effort of the Chinese Government to promote multilateral cooperation in the field of space technology and applications in the Asia-Pacific region has achieved remarkable progress. The Convention of Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization was open for signature in Beijing on 28 October 2005, and as of 1 June this year, there are already nine Signatory States, namely, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand and Turkey. The Convention will enter into force following the fifth ratification. By then, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization will formally come into being, with its headquarters in Beijing. We are convinced that the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization will contribute to the expansion of exchanges and cooperation among countries, to economic development, social progress and enhancement of living standard in Asia-Pacific.

Mr. Chairman, during its eleventh five-year plan period, namely from 2006 to 2010, China will, by way of encouraging innovation and enhancing international cooperation, continue to press ahead with the transformation of its space industry from the phase of experimental applications to the phase of operational services, developing communication, navigation and remote sensing satellites and their applications and forming a space industry chain which covers space, ground, end-products manufacturing and operational services.

Mr. Chairman, the rapid growth of space activities and space technology offers not just tremendous opportunities for development, but also serious tests and challenges. For nearly 50 years, the international community has made sustained efforts to maintain outer space for peaceful use. However, the policy of a certain country to test, deploy and use weapons and weapon systems in outer space is disconcerting. Outer space is the common heritage of mankind and weaponization of outer space is bound to

trigger off arms race in outer space, thus rendering outer space a new arena for military confrontation. This goes against the very principle of peaceful exploration and use of outer space and will cause serious consequences. The Chinese Government is ready, along with other member States, to make a great effort maintain peaceful use of outer space and to oppose militarization and weaponization of outer space.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Ambassador for your statement. I should like to take this opportunity once again to congratulate you on the space programmes that China has been implementing over the last couple of months, in particular the Shenzhou spacecraft's flight last October, with several astronauts onboard. And very many of us are struck by the rapidity(?) with which space exploration has developed in China and we are delighted to see the contribution that China wishes to make to the work of our Committee, given the size of your programme and its impact. Thank you very much and congratulations once again Sir.

I think we have a further question from Ambassador González.

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Sir. I am sorry to interpret you Sir but I had an interpretation problem. When I referred to the report, I do not know quite what was said in French but reference was made to the need to incorporate the Sustainable Development's report whereas that is not what I meant. I was talking about there being a need to incorporate a mention of space technology in the report, the UNEP Report on Human Development.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much. Ambassador, I think it was myself that misunderstood. It was not a problem with interpretation. It was my mistake Sir and you are quite right and that reference should have been made to the Development Programme and not the Environmental Programme, as the interpreters had mistakenly ...

We now turn our attention to the statement to be made by Indonesia. I recognize the delegate of Indonesia. Please go ahead.

Mr. M. KARTASASMITA (Indonesia): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. Gérard Brachet, on your election as Chairman and to the members of your Bureau, Mr. Elöd Both and Mr. Paul Tiendrebeogo. The Indonesian delegation looks forward to working in tandem with you to ensure a successful outcome for this session.

I would also like to reiterate our congratulations to Mr. B. N. Suresh and Dr. Mazlan Othman, the Chairpersons of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the period of 2006-2007, as well as to Mr. Raimundo González Aninat as Chairperson of the Legal Subcommittee for the same period.

Our most sincere appreciation is extended to the previous Chairman, Dr. Adigun Ade Abiodun from Nigeria; First Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ciro Arévalo Yepes from Colombia; and Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. Parviz Tarikhi from Iran, for their outstanding contributions to the Committee and their guidance in advancing the efforts of the Committee. My delegation wishes them good health and continuing success in their current and future works.

My delegation has followed with great attention to the statement made by the Chairman, reviewing the developments of the work of the Committee since its forty-eighth session. We commend the Office for Outer Space Affairs and all parties for supporting and carrying out the work which, in turn, facilitates our consideration on the issues of concern during the course of our present session.

Mr. Chairman, before turning to the work of the Committee for this session, allow me to, on behalf of the Government and the people of Indonesia, express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to countries, international organizations and institutions for their assistance and condolences extended on the tragic occasion of the earthquake on Java Island on 27 May 2006, including those which have been kindly expressed in this forum by the Chairman, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and by distinguished delegates. We are comforted to see how the international community pulls together and extends its support in the face of a calamity that has taken the lives of over 6,200 people and left over 200,000 people homeless.

In particular, in this forum my delegation would like to express our deep appreciation to the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the German Aerospace Centre, DLR, for taking the

initiative to active the International Charter "Space and Major Disaster". We are also grateful to note that JAXA of Japan, CRISP of Singapore, MACRES of Malaysia, GISTDA of Thailand, UNOSAT and others who had been very swiftly in providing imagery and data of the disaster area caused by the Yogyakarta earthquake.

In anticipation for another natural disaster in Central Java, our appreciation goes to the United States Geological Survey, USGS, for its initiative to activate the Charter for the purpose of predicting the impending eruption of Mount Merapi, which is located on the north of the epicentre of the last May earthquake.

Mr. Chairman, in observing the agenda for this session, I see the promise of useful results on a number of important topics.

First of all, I would like to reaffirm Indonesia's position that outer space should be entirely used for peaceful purposes and for the benefits of all humankind. We take note of the General Assembly resolution number 60/99 of 2006, paragraph 39, which considers deliberations on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful uses as a matter of priority. In this line, we also recall paragraphs 29 to 31 of the resolution, stating that the benefits of space technology and its application should be increasingly used for sustainable growth and development, particularly in the developing countries. In this regard, our delegation fully supports the statement of His Excellency, Ambassador Aninat of Chile, that just has been delivered.

To achieve the above-mentioned objective, it is deemed necessary that the COPUOS consider the possibility of establishing a practical mechanism for coordinating and harmonizing its work with that of other related bodies, such as the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

Turning to the implementation of the recommendation of UNISPACE III, our delegation, indeed, appreciates the hard work performed by the Ad Hoc Expert Group. Indonesia has greatly benefited from the International Charter "Space and Major Disaster". On the other hand, my delegation attaches great importance to the indigenous capability to fully use the technology, to make available remote sensing data in affected areas, to process relevant information further, and to support prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation phases. This should be used as the basis for the establishment of the Disaster Management International Space Coordination Organization,

DMISCO. The probably actions are to perform capacity-building and technical consultancy activities in disaster-prone countries and to establish the network among data providers as well as between data providers and the relevant authorities in disaster-prone countries, while also providing technical consultancy.

With regard to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee, my delegation notes with satisfaction that both Subcommittees have made progress in deliberations of issues in line with their mandate. It is my earnest hope that the distinguished delegates in this session will continue to engage in genuine negotiations to reach mutually acceptable solutions by using the achievements of both Subcommittees, in particular, the solution of the issues on the definition and delimitation of outer space. In the context of clarifying the boundary between air and outer space, this solution may contribute to legal certainty of implementing space law and air law. As to the utilization of the geostationary orbit, GSO, it is our firm view that in light of its *sui generis* characteristics, equitable access to the orbit should be guaranteed to all States, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries as well as the geographical position of certain countries.

Mr. Chairman, international cooperation is an area of high priority in Indonesian space activities. In this context, Indonesia has and will continue to actively contribute to the strengthening of such cooperation, among others, by hosting the Thirteenth Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF, and the Second International Water-Boosted Rocket and Poster Competitions in November 2006. Considering the benefits of the APRSAF, which has been experienced by Asia-Pacific countries, we would like to take this opportunity to invite more countries in the region to take active part in the Forum, particularly during the upcoming meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Regarding the Sentinel Asia project, 2006-2007, which is one of the concrete actions towards the establishment of the Disaster Management Support System in the Asia-Pacific, sponsored by JAXA, Japan, I am pleased to inform you that Indonesia will soon activate the data provider nodes, which are to support the setting-up of automated and near-real-time data/information distribution through the regional network. As one of the highly vulnerable countries, Indonesia can fully see the potential benefits of this system and we support the implementation of the project.

Beside the above activities, Indonesia has signed the Convention of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, APSCO, in Beijing, October 2005, and also is preparing an agreement on space cooperation with the Government of the Russian Federation, which is expected to be officially signed this year.

Mr. Chairman, at this juncture, I would like to extend my delegation's hope for the continuation of efforts in the field of space cooperation, aiming for sustainable development, with strong support from all countries in the forthcoming years. Let me assure you of our firm commitment and support to the efforts of this Committee that will surely benefit us all.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I should like to thank the distinguished representative of Indonesia, Mr. Kartasasmita. Thank you very much for your very thorough statement Sir. I particularly note the point that you raised in connection with the need for each country affected by a natural disaster to have available its own means and skills to put those countries in a position best to draw upon space technology. I am thinking of space imagery and so on. Now your country has been affected by a number of disasters recently and this is particularly relevant. But I am also thinking of the remarkable progress that Indonesia has achieved in this regard. It was a personal pleasure for me to listen to a presentation at the Astronautics Congress in October, talking about the progress that had been achieved in terms of the estimation of the damage caused by the tsunami and I was struck by the high quality of that work and I now would like to congratulate you upon that. It was really remarkable work. Thank you very much, therefore, for your statement.

We will now hear from the Italian delegation and I give the floor to Ms. Gabriella Arrigo. Thank you very much Sir.

Ms. G. ARRIGO (Italy): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to begin by extending my warmest congratulations to Mr. Gérard Brachet, elected Chairman of this Committee and its new officers for the period 2006-2007.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Italian delegation, let me wish you a good job for the next challenging and rewarding two years to come. We are sure your long space experience and managerial capability will be useful and relevant for our work.

In addition, the Italian delegation would like to express special appreciation to Mr. Ade Abiodun for his professional and vigorous coordination capacity resulted in the past chairmanship of this Committee.

Finally, I would also like to thank Mr. Sergio Camacho-Lara, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and his staff, for the regular and efficient job.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Italian delegation, let me express my sympathy with the Indonesian island of Java for the thousands of people who died in the strong earthquake a few weeks ago.

In consideration of this tragedy, Italy is more convinced of the relevance and urgency in implementing the recommendations of the UNISPACE III, as expressed in item 7 of our agenda.

In addition, recognizing the relevance of the activities carried out by the Action Teams, aiming to promote space technologies and space applications, Italy continues to follow the space science and technology opportunities, convinced that their applications could play a key role in the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development recommendations.

In particular to the Navigation Action Team, Italy supported the creation, on voluntary basis, of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, which will promote the sustainable development through the cooperation in the frame of civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services, as well as the compatibility and inter-operability with existing and future navigation satellite systems.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to item 8 of our agenda, relating to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, Italy, through ESA, is pleased to support that organization of several workshops and symposia round the world.

Considering the matters pertaining to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, Italy recognizes the relevance and encourages the development of the European Programme Global Monitoring for Environment and Security in strengthening the international cooperation.

The Italian delegation would like to remark on the efficient job conducted by the Working Group on Space Debris during the last session of the Scientific

and Technical Subcommittee, which approved the text of the draft Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines. The document is circulating at national level in order to reach consent before the approval by the next Scientific and Technical Subcommittee session in 2007.

With regard to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, Italy actively participated in the work of the Joint Technical Workshop on the Objectives, Scope and General Attributes of Potential Technical Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, co-organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We agreed with the Workshop conclusions, in particular, that it helped to better understand respective mechanisms of the development and decision processes of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Committee and characterized advantages, drawbacks and peculiarities of the different implementation options.

Mr. Chairman, in the frame of space-system-based disaster management support, the Italian delegation will make a specific statement about the main international activities carried out by the Italian Earth Observation Community.

In addition, Italy already expressed its preliminary positive opinion with respect to the possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and the means of optimizing the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management. In particular, we are convinced that the mandate of this United Nations entity might be complementary with the GMES programme and GEOSS work plan.

Our final decision on the formality of our contribution will be taken as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, finally, with regard to the new item in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, "International Heliophysical Year 2007", Italian scientists hail the world's science community that will again come together for an international programme of scientific collaboration aiming at advancing our understanding of the fundamental heliophysical processes that govern the Sun, Earth and Heliosphere, and at demonstrating the beauty, relevance and significance of space and Earth science to the world.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to item 9, the Italian delegation welcomes the results achieved by the Legal Subcommittee during its forty-fourth session,

under the chairmanship of the Chilean Ambassador, Raimundo González Aninat.

We followed with particular interest the deliberations of the Subcommittee under agenda item 11, Practices of States and International Organizations on the Registration of Space Objects, either in the Plenary as well as during the Working Group meetings, also considering that Italy has recently become a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. On the other hand, the Italian delegation would like to express its concerns on the issue of the new agenda items to be included in the agenda of the Subcommittee for the years to come.

As we have already had the opportunity to state, we believe that the Legal Subcommittee represents a unique forum for States to analyze, study and exchange information on the practices and the evolution of international space law. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we deem that member States should make their best efforts to agree on new items to be included in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, in consideration of item 11 of our agenda and, in particular, the special theme dedicated to space and education, a representative of the Italian Space Agency is pleased to make a presentation on the education activities carried out in Italy for the diffusion and enhancement of space among young students.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me welcome, on item 14, the matter relating to the evolution of space activities and the development a long-term plan to strengthen the role of this Committee in international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Madam for your statement on behalf of the Italian delegation. Italy has become a major player in European space activities and it was my personal pleasure to be associated with a number of major decisions that have been taken by Italy in the area of space in the last few years. I am thinking in the context of the European Space Agency and bilaterally. And I am particularly struck by the high quality of the development and the vision in Italian space activities. I would like to thank you very much for all the comments that you made in reference to agenda items and we will deal with those points as we come to them on the agenda.

I now recognize Nigeria and I give the floor to Mr. Maiyegun.

Mr. O. I. MAIYEGUN (Nigeria) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

(*Continued in English*) On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I am pleased to see you preside over the activities and the affairs of the forty-ninth session of this Committee. We are well aware of your vast experience and record as head of the French Space Agency and we have no doubt in your ability to conduct the affairs of this session. We pledge our support for you and the members of the new Bureau and we assure you of our cooperation throughout this session and indeed the subsequent sessions Mr. Chairman.

We also note with satisfaction the tremendous progress made by the Committee under the able chairmanship of Dr. Adigun Ade Abiodun of our country. We note in particular that the Committee had been able to follow the progress of the implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations with two remarkable achievements. One is the submission of the reports of UNISPACE III + 5 review to the General Assembly with the sensitization of the international community through a press conference organized by the Committee's executives and a debate at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the invaluable contribution of space technology to human development. Two, the creation of the Disaster Management International Space Coordination, which we often refer to as DMISCO, entity as a programme under the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and a joint effort to implement an integrated global system, especially through international cooperation, to help developing countries have access to and be in a position use space-based technology for risk reduction and disaster management.

Mr. Chairman, we also would like to commend, not just for the timely availability of documents, but the good work and the efforts of the staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in particular the Director, Mr. Sergio Camacho-Lara, and the Expert on Space Applications, Ms. Alice Lee, for their dedication to duty to ensure the implementation of the programmes of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

Mr. Chairman, before I proceed to make other comments, let me, through you, also express the condolences of our delegation, of our country, to the people of Indonesia, on the unfortunate disaster in the

Java region. We stand by the _____(?) Indonesia. We commiserate with them and we join them in solidarity at this time.

Mr. Chairman, at the forty-eighth session of the Committee in June 2005, Nigeria gave an update on the implementation of its space policy and programme which include the validation of NigeriaSat-1 images and the use of the images in many areas of socio-economic development by the user community in Nigeria. The Committee may wish to note that the awareness generated through these initiatives has continued to yield positive results. The National Space Research and Development Agency is collaborating and sharing experiences with the University of Missouri, in Kansas City, in the United States, and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, in Ibadan, Nigeria, on two projects titled "Satellite-Based Resource and Environmental Management in the Niger Delta Area of Nigeria", and "Development of Models for Cassava Yield Prediction", respectively, using NigeriaSat-1 and other satellite data. Our Agency is also collaborating with Obafemi Awolowo University, in Ile-Ife in Nigeria, and the International Institute for Geo-Information and Earth Observation in The Netherlands, on capacity-building in the development GEOFORMIN, a geo-information-based system for forestry management in Nigeria and, indeed, in Africa. The programme is an extension of the project titled "Deforestation and its Implication on Biodiversity in Nigeria".

Similarly, Mr. Chairman, the Agency is promoting satellite-based research in many tertiary institutions in Nigeria, taking advantage of the availability of images from NigeriaSat-1 at free or nominal cost. Thus, the reality of unhindered access to real-time and affordable satellite data from NigeriaSat-1 is gaining ground and impacting on sustainable development efforts in Nigeria.

On 15 November 2005, the Disaster Monitoring Constellation, DMC, a novel partnership among five countries, Algeria, China, Nigeria, Turkey and the United Kingdom, signed an Agreement to join the International Charter on Space and Major Disaster. Nigeria, through the DMC, is now being empowered to trigger the Charter in the event of any disaster in Nigeria and the West Africa Sub-Region. NigeriaSat-1 and the other satellites in the DMC have been providing effective services to users globally. These include the management of the earthquake disasters in Iran and Kashmir region and the flood disaster triggered by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria is making progress in its effort to design, build and launch the first Nigerian Communication Satellite, a critical ICT infrastructure in Nigeria and Africa, in collaboration with China Greatwall Industry Corporation. The agreement for the project implementation covers the Know-How Technology Transfer to 55 Nigerian engineers and scientists who are presently undergoing training in China. NigeriaSat-1 (NigcomSat-1?) is a hybrid geostationary satellite with a lift-off mass of over 5,150 kilograms. Other cutting edge features of NigcomSat-1 include 30 active and 10 redundant transponders in C-, Ku, Ka- and L-Bands with footprints over Africa and beams for trunk communication services between Europe and Africa. The target date for the satellite launch is December 2006 or, at the latest, March 2007. To justify Nigeria's investment in the communication satellite project, the National Space Research and Development Agency, in collaboration with Kemilinks International and Spacetechn, organized a three-day Workshop on the theme "The Nigerian Communication Satellite Project: Opportunities for Investors and Service Providers". The Workshop provided an opportunity to examine the current status and future trends of satellite communications technology and the potential areas of applications. It also reviewed the policy, regulatory, operational and business issues that would derive from the provision of satellite communications services in Nigeria. Already notable institutions from both the public and private sectors signed agreements to invest substantially into the communication satellite project in terms of direct investment and the purchase of transponders.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria, in partnership with UNESCO, organized a one-week Workshop on Space Education in Nigeria. Students and teachers from secondary and tertiary institutions participated in the Workshop. UNESCO has made available two of its activity centres for teaching, education and atmospheric and planetary research available to the Agency.

In November 2005, Nigeria hosted the First African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa. The Workshop was attended by participants from 17 African countries and United Nations observer bodies. The Conference was used as a forum to sensitize all African countries, including African member States of COPUOS, to maximize the benefits of space technology for human development and to be proactive in COPUOS activities. One of the outcomes of the Conference was the formation of a Steering Committee, made up of representatives of Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Algeria, Egypt and the Economic

Community for Africa, ECA, to deliberate on the way forward. South Africa and Nigeria, as I reported earlier, have offered to host the second and third editions of the Conference in the last quarters of 2007 and 2009, respectively. It was agreed that the Conference would be held every two years.

Participants from Nigeria, Algeria, South Africa and Kenya also used the opportunity of the African Leadership Conference to advance the progress made towards the development of the African Resource Management constellation satellites which include the proposed NigeriaSat-2. The user requirement survey and technical parameters of the ARM satellites, which take into account the needs of the individual countries and African needs as a whole, and the inclusion of both medium and very high-resolution payloads, are still being discussed.

Similarly, an International Workshop on Space Law, which was jointly organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Nigerian Government and held in Abuja in November 2005. As mentioned earlier by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Workshop provided an opportunity to introduce space law to the Nigerian legal practitioners and policy makers and, indeed, to enhance the development of space law in Nigeria.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria is pleased to express her willingness to support the DMISCO initiative by the coordination of its programme in Africa, through the donation of two experts and office accommodation with working facilities. Nigeria will also support the disaster management activities of DMISCO through access to her space assets in accordance with her national data policy.

Nigeria is fostering international cooperation through the Space Research Agency and its activity centres. The Centre for Basic Space Science and Astronomy, at Nsukka, for example, has signed Memoranda of Understanding, MOU's, with a number of international institutions, such as the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, South Africa's Astronomical Observatory and the University of Delaware, Harvard, in the United States, for collaboration in the areas of astronomy and astrophysics, capacity-building, atmospheric science, instrumentation and climate change observation/monitoring. The Centre has also acquired a 25 centimetre optical telescope for the purpose of promoting the teaching of planetary sciences in Nigeria's High School and tertiary institutions. The Centre has published the first "Nigerian Journal of Space Research", which is devoted to highlighting

major achievements of researchers in Nigeria and Africa in all aspects of space science and technology.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria remains committed to its bilateral and multilateral agreements, including those with international organizations such as the DMC, CEOS and GEOS. It also pledges its support to international protocols and treaties governing space exploration, especially the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria considers the use of space technology strategic to the realization of its economic reform programmes, such as the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy. This reform is aimed at achieving some of the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, NEPAD, and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, MDG, particularly in the areas of food security, comprehensive rural health delivery, job and wealth creation and poverty alleviation.

Mr. Chairman, the systematic implementation of the Nigerian space policy and programme is considered as part of the overall national development strategy and Nigeria remains focused and committed to the achievements of these objectives.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Maiyegun for your statement on behalf of the Nigerian delegation. I have to say that I was very impressed by the breadth of space-related activities pursued by Nigeria, these observation satellites, the future telecommunications satellite, on which you are working right now. I was very pleased to hear that the DMC constellation has joined the International Charter on emergency situations and you are fully participating now in these Charter activities. Congratulations on the remarkable accomplishments of your country in the area of outer space activities.

We are now moving on to the statement by the delegation of India. I believe Dr. Suresh is going to speak on behalf of his country. Thank you.

Mr. B. N. SURESH (India): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Indian delegation is pleased to see you in the Chair guiding the deliberations of the forty-ninth session of COPUOS. We express our hearty congratulations to you for the election as the Chairman of COPUOS for the year 2006-2007. We are confident that under your able guidance and leadership and with your vast experience in the space arena and also your long-term association with the United Nations forum,

this Committee will achieve substantial progress during the session. You can also count on the full cooperation and support of the Indian delegation in achieving excellent results in this Committee under your leadership.

We also congratulate Mr. Elöd Both and Mr. Paul Tiendrebeogo on being elected as the First and Second Vice-Chairman of COPUOS. We are sure the new Bureau, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, will contribute significantly to the progress of the matters related to the agenda items identified for this session.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Adigun Ade Abiodun led the COPUOS Committee very efficiently during the period 2004 to 2005. We place on record our sincere appreciation for his excellent contribution as the Chairman of the COPUOS during his two-year tenure.

Mr. Chairman, the year 2005 had seen some major disasters in various parts of the world like massive earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and landslides. India conveys its deepest condolences to the countries who people were devastated by these disasters. More recently, there has been a devastating earthquake that struck the Indonesian island resulting in great loss of lives and property. India conveys its deepest condolences to the people of Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation congratulates the United States of America on the successful return to flight mission of the Space Shuttle and also on the Silver Jubilee Year of the Space Shuttle this year. The successful launch of their New Horizon spacecraft to the distant planet Pluto by the United States of America is another important space effort and we wish them success in their future endeavours. We also congratulate the People's Republic of China on its second successful manned mission flight during October 2005.

Mr. Chairman, the effective utilization of space systems for national development is the way for all developing countries to make substantial progress. Conceiving specific application programmes to address the societal problems at the grass root level is of utmost importance. Towards this goal, COPUOS has been providing the right platform by enthusing many countries to take up space application programmes for the benefit of mankind. In the coming years, international cooperation in the space arena should get further fillip providing better benefits to the developing countries. We look forward to a very fruitful and participative deliberation during this session.

Mr. Chairman, let me briefly present to this Committee the significant achievements made by India in the space field since the last session in June 2005.

An important milestone during the year has been the launch of India's most advanced communication satellite, INSAT-4A, intended mainly for meeting the demand for Direct-to-Home television broadcasting requirements. This satellite was launched by the European Ariane-5 launch vehicle from Kourou, French Guyana during 21 December 2005. It carried 12 high-power Ku-Band and 12 C-Band transponders. The satellite has been commissioned and has been put into regular service.

In addition to this, the space application programmes have continued to make forays with the advent of several newer initiatives. Over the year, a number of tele-education, tele-medicine and Village Resource Centre networks got commissioned and has provided for better outreach. In the area of the tele-education project, today more than 3,500 EDUSAT classrooms have been created in the country. Through the use of the tele-education network, more than 200,000 students got benefited which includes students from schools, colleges, professional and training institutes. The system has been used for imparting teachers and nurses training as well. Similarly, in the areas of the tele-medicine projects, we have successfully expanded the network in the last one year. Presently, ISRO's tele-medicine network consists of 160 hospitals, of which 133 hospitals in the remote, rural and district levels have been connected to 27 Super Speciality Hospitals located in the major cities.

India attaches high importance to the use of space-based systems for water and forest resources managements. Presently, remote sensing data has been effectively put to use for a number of water-based applications, which includes, among others, irrigation water management, snow and glacier studies, surface water bodies mapping/monitoring, ground water prospecting and recharging. Similarly, in the area of forestry, remote sensing data is being used extensively to generate forest cover maps for monitoring the forest cover changes and planning conservation measures. Forest cover maps are being generated in the 1:50,000 scale.

Mr. Chairman, during this session, the Indian delegation will make three separate presentations under the agenda items on space and education, space and water, and space and forestry.

Adding another dimension to the effective use of space-enabled services for societal benefit has been

the initiative of ISRO in creating the Village Resource Centres, VRCs. Village Resource Centres are envisaged as a single window delivery mechanism for a variety of space-based products and services, such as tele-education, tele-medicine, information on natural resources for planning and development at local level, interactive advisories on agriculture, fisheries, land and water resources management, livestock management, and so on and so forth. A number of clusters of Village Resource Centres has been established across the country providing valuable inputs to the local community and helping them in addressing a variety of social aspects. It is planned to set up at least 100 VRCs across the country by the year end.

In addition to this, some of the other major space application programmes were continued. They are crop acreage and production estimated, forecasting of potential fisher zones, and creating national inventory on wastelands.

Mr. Chairman, international cooperation has always been an integral part of the Indian space programme. Over the years, ISRO has established bilateral and multilateral agreements with a number of space and other related agencies. ISRO takes special interest in providing the expertise and services for helping the developing countries in the application of space technology. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for the Asia and Pacific Region, affiliated to the United Nations and operating from India, is an initiative in this direction. The Centre has continued to make good progress and has carried out 22 post-graduate programmes with a duration of nine months and two are currently ongoing. In addition, it organized a number of short-term courses/workshops. So far, 643 scholars from 46 countries, including the Asia-Pacific region and outside the region, were benefited from the educational activities of the Centre. We are happy to inform the Committee that during November last year, the Centre has successfully completed 10 years of its service.

Mr. Chairman, during the year 2005-2006, there have been some significant agreements that were signed between ISRO and other international agencies in the space technology front.

ISRO and NASA of the United States of America signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 9 May 2006 for inclusion of two United States scientific instruments onboard India's first mission to the Moon, Chandrayaan-1.

ISRO signed an Agreement with the European Space Agency, ESA, in June 2005, which will provide

for carrying three instruments of ESA onboard India's first scientific mission to the Moon, Chandrayaan-1.

An Agreement with Russia to cooperate in its GLONASS programme.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Antrix Corporation of the Department of Space and EADS Astrium, France, during 20 June 2005, to jointly address the commercial market for communication satellites in the mass range of two to three tons. The Agreement envisages optimizing ISRO's INSAT platform, along with EADS Astrium communication payloads. We are happy to inform that the first Agreement under this umbrella Memorandum of Understanding has been signed.

An arrangement concerning consideration of potential future cooperation in the field of outer space between ISRO and JAXA, Japan, during October 2005.

Mr. Chairman, the integrated and application-driven space programme pursued by ISRO has benefited the common man and has enhanced their quality of life.

Towards our quest for utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes and benefiting mankind through proper use of space-based assets, we feel the agenda for this session of the COPUOS is very relevant and important. Our deliberations during the session should encourage the developing countries in contributing extensively towards capacity-building for gainful utilization of space application programmes.

The Indian delegation firmly believes that COPUOS will continue to contribute through exchange of views and sharing of expertise that exists among various countries in the world in the space technology front and make the Earth a better place to live in.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Dr. Suresh for your contribution. I have to say that every time I hear a statement on India's space activities, I am deeply impressed by the great success that you have accomplished over the years and the very highly-structured, very well organized way in which you pursue these activities in your country. Often I have told myself, I wish we could copy that, we could have the same approach. Again, congratulations on your accomplishments. I think the quality of your space programme is something that we should all learn from. We should learn of better ways of applying space technologies in a

number of countries. In that sense, your contribution to the work of this Committee is of particular importance. Thank you again.

And I now call on Romania, Mr. Marius Piso.

Mr. M.-I. PISO (Romania) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman.

(*Continued in English*) Let me express, on behalf of the delegation of Romania, my congratulations to you and to the delegation of France for your election in the main chair of this Committee. And let me express my certitude that strategic and practical goals and objectives of COPUOS will be successfully accomplished under your chairmanship.

Let me also extend the congratulations to Dr. Elöd Both from Hungary and Dr. Paul Tiendrebeogo from Burkina Faso for their election in the Board of this Committee.

Mr. Abiodun, also please accept my congratulations for the successful leadership of the Committee during the last years, together with my hope that all the actions already started during your mandate will benefit of successful follow-up.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, Romania is continuing its own space development at the national level and together with the international space community.

The Romanian Space programme is further developed under the authority of the Romanian Space Agency and accomplished by more than 104 organizations with research, academic and industrial profiles. The five sub-programmes, space policy and infrastructure, space exploration, space applications, aerospace technology, industrial development and spin-off, were completed recently with a space technology programme for security. Presently, being involving several hundreds full-time equivalent professionals, and this programme recorded a substantial growth during the last year. I would like to remind that most of the projects are completed under international cooperation. I might mention contributions to international space exploration projects. Also development of space applications in the frame of Europe or the European Commission and the European Space Agency. I would like also to recall that Romania is continuing to strengthen its international cooperation within the frame of the European Space Agency.

And between the last sessions of the Committee, Romania became an ESA Cooperating State and the signature of the specific Agreement happened during last February in Bucharest, under the authority of the Prime Minister of Romania. By this new Agreement, laboratories, universities and companies from Romania will actively contribute to the ESA space missions and technology applications. This Agreement concluded also the establishment of the ESA European Cooperating States Committee, having as members the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania.

Agreements and technical cooperation projects are ongoing and are in preparation between the Romanian Space Agency and significant organizations, as NASA and the French Space Agency, CNES, the German Aerospace Centre, for projects directed to both science and direct applications as space technology, as for precision agriculture, environmental monitoring and tele-medicine.

A Government Agreement on cooperation in the peaceful exploration and uses of space is under negotiation with the Russian Federation.

Also Romania continued the projects of technical assistance for developing States and since this year, is giving technical assistance to the Republic of Moldova for remote sensing applications in agriculture.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, with reference to agenda item 6, maintaining outer space for exclusive peaceful utilization of space technology is a need and a must. Nevertheless, in today's world, we are ever more convinced that science and technology should be used to enhance human security and safety. The humankind is facing more and more threats from the global Earth and space environment, but also from terrorism, from deadly diseases, from extreme poverty and hunger. Space technology already proved its contribution to the overall mitigation of the effects of natural disasters. Nevertheless, we should improve the mechanisms and increase the efficiency of the space tool utilizations for better warning, monitoring and prediction, to a better preparedness to meet unfortunate major natural events.

However, in the same sense, among the most pressing problems we face today are harmonizing economic development with global warming, preventing the use of advanced technology by terrorists and controlling infectious diseases.

This broader and more comprehensive security concept, which goes beyond military aspects and security of States, needs, for its development, as a major pillar, the contribution of space activities. In our opinion, this contribution could be undertaken by maintaining both the peaceful aspect of space technology development and fostering the maintaining the outer space for peaceful purposes.

International efforts to address these problems are needed more than ever and space and security are items which are to be discussed again together in the frame of most significant international organizations. In particular, in the frame of the European Union, space and security were brought together in the frame of the new Research and Technology Development Framework Programme 7.

As my delegation mentioned also during the latest COPUOS sessions, space is generating significant added value in the areas of security, as for reliable information for early warning, operational capabilities and readiness being proven by space imagery, secure and reliable communications, space-based positioning and time distribution.

In my country, I am able to announce that the role of space in adding value to the security concept has been already recognized. This means that the Romanian Space Agency is in charge since more than two years with the leadership of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Security Research and the National Research and Technology Development Programme on security research has been already started. And more than a dozen projects include the utilization of space technologies, as Earth observation, GNSS and satellite communications for the improvement of security-keeping mechanisms and for disaster monitoring.

Considering the global significance of the disaster management and security aspects of space developments, I might draw into your attention the need for a growing role of the Committee and its Subcommittees, together with an adequate definition of their mechanisms in order to maintain the capability to confront with those new challenges.

Mr. Chairman, concerning the seventh item of the agenda, the opinion of my delegation is that we should concentrate our efforts to contribute to an efficient follow-up of the UNISPACE III recommendations in taking into consideration the appropriate local and regional capabilities and needs. The outstanding work already pursued by the Action Teams should be naturally followed by the definition and implementation of action plans, containing specific

goals, means and tasks. Romania is ready to further contribute, support and accomplish specific projects to be defined as follow-up of the work of the Action Teams.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, my delegation considers that space technology is not only able, but should play a crucial role in the risks mitigation and in the improvement of the quality of life on Earth. Efforts should be done to generate synergic cooperation between national agencies and international organizations, which conduct projects and systems for disaster management, and a better access to information and data could be one of the first goals the Subcommittee might take into account.

I would like to recall, Mr. Chairman, that space technology has been operationally utilized by Romania for the monitoring of the disastrous floods occurred during July 2005 and April-May 2006. The International Charter "Space and Major Disaster" has been triggered twice by Romania and radar and optical satellite information has been acquired and processed by cooperation with the French Space Agency and with the German Space Agency and the Romanian Space Agency. The Romanian authorities were daily informed on the flooding evolution and disaster maps containing pertinent information of the flooded areas were produced, together with 3-dimensional fly-throughs of the flooded areas. And having this already new experience on the utilization of space technology for disaster management, my delegation has a new argument to further support the activities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts towards the development of an international entity devoted to space and disasters, DMISCO.

Mr. Chairman, regarding the agenda items concerning space and society, my delegation agreed with the need to develop specific action plans for incorporating outer space into education, enhancing education in space, expanding space tools for education and fostering the wide promotion of space concepts and applications among social and business life.

My delegation also agreed with the development of the theme "Space and Water" and supports the initiatives organized by the United Nations and member States in the field.

Regarding the discussions around the recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society, our opinion included the fact that space assets are essential components of the information era. The new developments and the generalization of the geospatial information systems

are clearly supported by the GNSS, SATCOM and Earth observation and it might be important that the global information society planners should have the requested awareness about the existing space tools.

Mr. Chairman, I am asking for the permission to reiterate the fact that Romania, a country with tradition and development in the field of space science, aerospace technology and space applications, will continue to give the space activities a driving role in the fields of national science and technology and development and security programmes.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation will ask you for taking the floor during the specific items of the agenda we might be able to be concerned.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Mr. Piso for your very thorough statement. Might I congratulate you upon the signature of the Agreement with the European Space Agency that means participation in the specific programme that has been set up by the ESA in order to facilitate the participation of Central European countries in the work of the Agency. I know that in Romania the application of space technology has a long tradition. It goes back a long way and I personally had the opportunity to see what work is being done in your country and I know from what your delegation has told me that you are in a position to make a very active contribution to this Committee and I would like to thank you in advance for that.

I do not see any further delegations of member States on the speakers list this afternoon. However, we have a request from an observer State, namely the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, represented here by Professor Ian Dowman, whom I first met perhaps some 20 years ago. And I am delighted to give Professor Dowman the floor now to present a statement on behalf of the ISPRS.

Professor Dowman, you have the floor.

Mr. I. DOWMAN (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, thank you for this opportunity to participate in the forty-ninth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space under your distinguished chairmanship and we congratulate you on your election to this position, particularly in view of your long association with ISPRS.

We would also wish to thank the Director and staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their work in support of the use of space data for the benefit of society and particularly in the area of disaster management and the operation of DMISCO.

Mr. Chairman, as a non-governmental international organization devoted to the development of international cooperation for the advancement of photogrammetry and remote sensing and their applications, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing wishes to bring to your attention some of the activities of ISPRS during the past year which are relevant to the deliberations of COPUOS and to comment on the agenda items which are important to ISPRS.

We note the continued activities of COPUOS in implementing the recommendations from UNISPACE III. But we also note the continued development of the Group on Earth Observation, GEO. ISPRS is a Participating Organization of GEO and is active in the committees and task teams of the Organization. We note that many organizations, including the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Committee for Earth Observation Satellite, CEOS, will be participating in the implementation of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems, GEOSS. Many of these activities overlap with the recommendations of UNISPACE III and we urge the Committee to ensure that these activities are coordinated.

ISPRS believes that one of the most important components of the implementation of GEOSS is capacity-building. And, once again, we urge that organizations collaborate in capacity-building activities, through GEO, to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and that maximum efficiency is obtained from such efforts. ISPRS has combined its commitment to GEO and its mission of promoting Earth observation to developing nations, particularly in the current period in Africa. We have co-sponsored with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, IEEE, a Workshop in Africa on GEOSS in which we particularly looked to get feedback on user requirements which could be fed into the Implementation Plan of GEO. We would particularly like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Programme Officers for Outer Space Affairs for their support of this activity.

We planned further activities in this area which include an ISPRS Symposium on "Geospatial Databases for Sustainable Development", to be held in Goa in India from 27 to 30 September. And that is

immediately after the Second International Symposium on "Geo-Information for Disaster Management", also in Goa, which is supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

ISPRS will also organize sessions on capacity-building at the Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment, to be held in Cairo from 30 October to 4 November and also at the Map World Forum, to be held in Hyderabad in India in January 2007.

Another activity of interest is the Symposium on the ISPRS Commission VIII on "Remote Sensing Applications for a Sustainable Future". This is to be held in Haifa from 4 to 7 September in 2006.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to mention that ISPRS is active within the International Council of Science, ICSU, where the Group of Geo-Unions is coordinating activities on environmental topics, particularly natural and human-induced hazards and disasters, and on health and well-being. These are important interdisciplinary initiative which could make wide use of space technology and data from satellites and make a significant contribution to the development of the use of Earth observation data.

ISPRS is also involved in the International Polar Year and is leading a project on the use of historical image data to monitor changes in the Polar areas.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I appreciate this opportunity to report to you and present the activities and goals of ISPRS. I am sure that the activities of ISPRS will contribute to the work of COPUOS and I look forward to reporting further developments in the future.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much Professor for your presentation on the activities of the ISPRS. It is a pleasure for me to note that your Society is so very active, organizing congresses and seminars on a regular basis. You mentioned two of them, I think, in your statement. I also note that you have close links with GEOSS and, of course, that is particularly relevant to this discipline. Thank you once again for your statement and your contribution to the work of this Committee at this session.

I do not see any further requests for the floor on this agenda item, General Exchange of Views, item 5, this afternoon.

I intend to close the list of speakers under item 5, General Exchange of Views, tomorrow morning. I would, therefore, request that delegations that wish to make a statement under the general exchange of views, please approach the Secretariat as quickly as possible and we will take up the general exchange of views once again tomorrow morning.

Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (agenda item 6)

We will, therefore, start our examination of item 6 of the agenda, that is, Ways and means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

Might I recall that in resolution 60/99, the General Assembly requested that the Committee give priority to the question of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report at its next session on this. The Secretary-General also agreed that in doing so, the Committee could continue making steps in this regard.

I do not see any speakers on my list of speakers under this agenda item. It might be that there will be requests in the next few days under this agenda item where the General Assembly also agreed the Committee could consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation based on experiences stemming from the Space Conference of the Americas and the role space technology could play in the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

We will, therefore, return to this tomorrow morning.

Delegates, I intend to adjourn soon but I would like to make a few announcements with regards to our work tomorrow morning.

We will meet at 10.00 a.m. tomorrow morning sharp and we will take up our consideration of agenda item 5 again, General Exchange of Views, and 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes. We will perhaps also begin our consideration of agenda item 7, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III, the Third United Nations Conference on Space Exploration.

And I believe that tomorrow morning Japan intends to make a technical presentation, at the end of tomorrow's meeting.

Do I see any questions or comments on tomorrow morning's proposed schedule?

I see no such comments.

Might I also inform delegates that the Ad Hoc Expert Group on the possibility of creating a disaster management international space coordination entity will hold its meeting tomorrow morning in Conference Room C-0713, starting at 9.00 a.m.

This meeting is, therefore, adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting closed at 5.17 p.m.