

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript*

612th Meeting
Friday, 12 June 2009, 3 p.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.13 p.m.

Paragraph 128.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Good afternoon distinguished delegates. We will continue the approval of our report. We are picking up A/AC.105/L.275/Add.1, this is the document currently under review. This morning, we reached paragraph 122, we will now proceed to consider 123 up to the end of this document which ends with paragraph 155. Once we have completed the approval of this document, the Secretariat will introduce a few additional paragraphs suggested on various occasions by delegations and these are specific additional paragraphs for our report. Following this method which I have just outlined, we are now looking at paragraph 123.

Approved.

Paragraph 129. The Czech Republic has the floor.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) Under paragraph 129, there is missing the word, law, in the second line, would act as host of the next United Nations workshop on space law.

I have also a suggestion concerning this paragraph and the following paragraph 130, to inverse the order, this means to put first the present paragraph 130 and then the paragraph 129 because of historical consequence.

Paragraph 123.

Approved.

Paragraph 124.

Approved.

Paragraph 125.

Approved.

Paragraph 126.

Approved.

Paragraph 127.

Approved.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much. This is a suggestion that makes the text more coherent. So put 130 and then 129 and with the addition of the word, law, in the English version. The Spanish version is already correct, it already contains that word.

Colombia. I think I have already addressed Colombia's concern on this aspect.

So in this order, we have 129 and 130.

Approved.

Paragraph 131.

Approved.

Paragraph 132.

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.



Approved.

Paragraph 133.

Approved.

Paragraph 134.

Approved.

Paragraph 135.

Approved.

Paragraph 136.

Approved.

Paragraph 137.

Approved.

Paragraph 138.

Approved.

Paragraph 139.

Approved.

Paragraph 140.

Approved.

Paragraph 141.

Approved.

Paragraph 142.

Approved.

Paragraph 143.

Approved.

Paragraph 144. Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) As you promised in this morning's session, we have done something, even without mentioning this, the joint proposal of Greece and the Czech Republic. I think the time is not quite enough to draft a reference but if the Secretariat may put an additional paragraph I would be very happy. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Not to worry, distinguished delegate of Greece. The Secretariat did receive that suggestion and it is going to be done. Thank you very much.

Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) I agree with this reminding us made by the distinguished representative of Greece but I wanted to add something. We used to have always in the report of the Legal Subcommittee, towards the end of this report, a list of items or proposals made in the past that have not been withdrawn, there were other such proposals that should be also, if of course the delegations concerned agreed to withdraw it but I believe that this has not been done. I remember that there used to be always four or five proposals made that were reflected here that they remain that they did not reach a consensus but they still were listed for future consideration.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic. Yes there is always a list obviously reflecting those countries that did not withdraw. The Secretariat has the floor.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) First, the comment by Greece and then the comment by the Czech Republic.

The Secretariat had prepared a wording for the Greek proposal to be included in subsection 9, draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee, on page 20, this is the last page of Add.1 and it would be additional paragraph 155*bis* and the Secretariat has proposed the following. The view was expressed that a new item entitled, review of existing norms of international law applicable to space debris proposed by the Czech Republic and Greece should be included on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. That was the proposed placement of such a reflection in this section.

The distinguished delegate of the Czech Republic reflects, very appropriately, what we had in the report of the Legal Subcommittee, the list of items that should be retained as the list for possible consideration in the future. The full list is contained in the report of the Legal Subcommittee and this is a practice that has been going on for some years, it has never been put in the report of the Committee, so it is in the report of the Legal Subcommittee, just for clarification. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) I thank the Secretariat for this contribution, response to the two concerns expressed by Greece and the Czech Republic. So there will be a last paragraph 155bis which will pick up the proposal, it will be appended to the end of the report.

With this, we have approved paragraph 144.

Paragraph 145.

Approved.

Paragraph 146.

Approved.

Paragraph 147.

Approved.

Paragraph 148.

Approved.

Paragraph 149.

Approved.

Paragraph 150.

Approved.

Paragraph 151.

Approved.

It is long paragraph 151 maybe you need a little more time.

Paragraph 151.

Approved.

Paragraph 152.

Approved.

Paragraph 153.

Approved.

Paragraph 154. Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) To paragraph 154. I believe that, for reasons of justice, the order of sponsoring organizations for the symposium should be inversed. This means it was first the initiation of the International Institute of Space Law which then started to cooperate in this respect with the European Centre for Space Law and then ____ (?) always spelled out that it would be organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law, so for reasons of historical development and justice it should be the order of these two entities should be inversed.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Professor Kopal.

Paragraph 154, with these modifications introduced by the Czech Republic, is thus approved.

Paragraph 155.

Approved.

Paragraph 155bis as read out by the Secretariat, I do not think there is any need to read it again.

If there is no problem, paragraph 155bis is also approved.

Now I am going to give the floor to the Secretariat and the Secretariat will introduce some of the other paragraphs as modified.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Distinguished delegates, I would like to call your attention to L.275 first, we have one remaining paragraph, paragraph 17 in the first document we considered this morning, L.275, under the section general statements, paragraph 17 and the Secretariat has proposed here some wording that we hope would accommodate the views expressed by the delegation of Chile. Paragraph 17 could then read as follows: The view was expressed that the peaceful uses of outer space needed a stronger platform within the United Nations system and that the group of members of the bureau of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies (group of 15) should be established as a mechanism to advise the Secretary-General on matters related to space and development.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Once again, this is a proposal, we would read, the view was expressed that.

So if everyone agrees I think that we can approve paragraph 17 of L.275 as amended.

Unfortunately the representative of Chile is not here but I am sure that this is language that would suit him.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Then we turn to L.275/Add.1, paragraph 50 in subsection 4, space system-based disaster management support, paragraph 50 on page 7. In the third line after, disaster reduction centre, could be inserted the following: , and that the cooperation agreement with Algeria would be signed during the third African Leadership Conference 2009. The third line of paragraph 50 after, disaster reduction centre, should be inserted the following: , and that the cooperation agreement with Algeria would be signed during the third African Leadership Conference 2009.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Secretariat. Algeria is not in the room but I know that that delegation has been in contact with the Secretariat and that corresponds to their desiderata.

So if there are no objections to be noted in the room, we adopt that.

Secretariat, on the next paragraph.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) The next is paragraph 117. To capture the proposal made by Colombia, so it would be paragraph 117*bis* on page 16 that could read as follows. The view was expressed that the Committee should play a role in the work of the ITU by contributing to the study to be carried out by the working party for (a) of the ITU Radiocommunication Section in 2011 and to the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference to be held in the second half of 2011.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. Austria to be followed by Greece.

Mr. W. LICHEM (Austria) I think, unless there is a constitutional statutory allocation of the role, we cannot talk of the role being played. I would rather suggest that we say, an important contribution can be made to.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. I would now like to give the floor to Greece. I would recall that I am giving you the floor but here we are referring to a delegation.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) Mr. Chairman, I would like to add another sentence saying that, the view was expressed that UNCOPUOS and the UN in general are not competent to participate in the substantive technical conferences and other meetings of ITU, because by virtue of the ITU Constitution and especially the agreement of Lake Success of 1947 ITU is the only specialized agency of the UN family to deal with telecommunications. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Well, I would not like to turn this into a substantive debate but nonetheless I will give the floor to Colombia.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. I would like to apologize to Spain and to Spanish speaking countries, but I am going to speak in English.

(*continued in English*) The only thing I would ask is to please divide into a new paragraph and specify the view was expressed by Greece, that is the only thing.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Just one second I am going to be putting a question to the Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) The Colombian views expressed would then be in paragraph 117*bis* and it would state only that, the view was expressed, without mentioning any particular delegation.

The views expressed in the proposed paragraph by Greece would then be inserted as paragraph 117*ter*, right after the Colombian paragraph and it would be phrased, the view was expressed and so forth, without mentioning any particular delegation. This is the practice established by the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Fine. I do not think it is necessary for you to take the floor.

Would there be any other requests for the floor? I believe that the two delegations' requests are going to be thus incorporated.

We may now adopt paragraph 117bis, as well as ter.

Now, let us take paragraph 118.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Sorry, paragraph 118 is already adopted. So I will continue. We will now turn to the remaining paragraphs that need to be adopted.

I then call your attention to a document that was distributed earlier in this afternoon's session, CRP.20/Rev.1. All delegations should have before them CRP.20/Rev.1. This document has, first and foremost, been updated so that it is more clear with a reference to which part of the report we are considering but I think that we all are familiar now with this document. I turn your attention to subsection 3, space debris, on page 6, in document Add.1 and what we are now discussing, Mr. Chairman, are the paragraphs 44bis, 44ter, 44quater, 44quinquies, 44sexies, as contained in CRP.20/Rev.1.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Would there be any delegation requesting the floor? Germany did you wish to add some information? Germany did you wish to take the floor?

Mr. J. MARSCHALL VON BIEBERSTEIN (Germany) Mr. Chairman, I think that all the suggestions that we wanted to make and also some other delegations have made are included now in the document CRP.20/Rev.1, so no more comments as far as I am concerned.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Fine.

So it is so decided that these paragraphs will be added to the body of section 3 of this document, space debris.

Secretariat, the next paragraph. Is that all! Is that done! Wonderful.

So I suggest that we should now consider the entire document L.275/Add.1 in its totality.

United States you have the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) Just one question. Have we adopted paragraphs 112 and 113 in Add.1? My notes show that they were still open. That is the section on definition and delimitation of outer space, page 15.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you for having reminded us. The changes there were linked to the Colombian proposal

but I would, nonetheless, like to give the floor to the Secretariat.

Ms. N. RODRIGUES (Secretariat) As regards paragraphs 112 and 113. I think 112 just needs to be adopted because I think the question that the delegation of Colombia has now been addressed through 117bis.

As regards 113, the delegation of Indonesia had suggested the following additional text. It affects the second line of that paragraph, so it would read as follows: delimitation of outer space, at the very least to achieve a minimum consensus through a more realistic approach, would create certainty.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Secretariat for that clarification on this paragraph.

I would like to submit paragraph 112 for adoption.

Adopted.

Paragraph 113 as amended by the Secretariat which is following the Indonesian request, if there is no objection I think we can consider that approved as well.

Secretariat, is there anything remaining, pending on this, so that we do not make any mistakes. There do not seem to be any other pending paragraphs, so I would like to submit for your approval the entire document L.275/Add.1.

If there are no objections, it is so decided, we have adopted that.

Now I would like to go on to the next document, that is A/AC.105/L.275/Add.2, recommendations and decisions.

Paragraph 1.

Adopted.

Paragraph 2.

Adopted.

Paragraph 3.

Adopted.

Paragraph 4.

Adopted.

Paragraph 5.

Adopted.

Paragraph 6.

Adopted.

Paragraph 7. China.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Just after the word, governments, we would like to suggest to add, of member States, it goes, governments of member States.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much. So, governments of member States.

Paragraph 7.

Adopted.

Paragraph 8.

Adopted.

Paragraph 9.

Adopted.

Paragraph 10.

Adopted.

Paragraph 11. Canada.

Ms. A-M Lan PHAN (Canada) (*interpretation from French*) Mr. Chairman, on this paragraph Canada had made a statement, so, if possible, I would like to include a reference to Canada in this paragraph.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) It is completely possible, it is certainly feasible, we will add a reference to Canada in paragraph 11. Secretariat.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Two points. In paragraph 12, in the list of presentations, we will replace the names of the presenter with the representatives. So I will just read under (a) it will be, by the observer of the Secretariat of GEO, under (b) it will be, by the representative of Germany, under (c) it will be, by the representative of Japan and (d) it will

be, by the representative of India. That is the first point.

The second point. There will be included two additional presentations. The first that we will include is, on space and climate, Indonesia: status and challenges, by the representative of Indonesia. The second presentation will be a presentation by the representative of Colombia and the Secretariat is now getting the full title of that presentation in English. We do not have it but this is something that we can make up with the Colombian delegate.

Colombia.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) *spoken in German.*

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Which translates as, the list has already been given to the Secretariat indicating the titles.

Thank you very much we will certainly refer to these titles.

Paragraph 12, as amended by the Secretariat, is thus adopted.

Japan.

Mr. K. MIYAZAKI (Japan) Regarding ____ (?), I would like to make two corrections. First one, the title, the greenhouse gases observing satellite, the initial of each word should be capitalized because this name is not a general but a concrete name of a satellite, this is the first point.

The second point is I would like to ask you to add at the end of the title, GOSAT in brackets, this is a title. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much distinguished representative of Japan, thank you for these comments.

Would there be any other comments from other delegations? Any comments on the presentations, the titles thereof on the part of the States having made them? No requests to speak on the part of the delegations concerned. Fine.

We have adopted that.

Paragraph 13.

Adopted.

Paragraph 14.

Adopted.

Paragraph 15.

Adopted.

Paragraph 16.

Adopted.

Paragraph 17.

Adopted.

Paragraph 18.

Adopted.

Paragraph 19.

Adopted.

Paragraph 20.

Adopted.

Paragraph 21.

Adopted.

Paragraph 22.

Adopted.

Paragraph 23. United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) In paragraph 23, I think we should delete the United States, we did not make a statement under this agenda item. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. Thank you for that rectification.

Paragraph 23 is adopted, as amended by the United States.

Paragraph 24.

Adopted.

Paragraph 25.

Adopted.

Paragraph 26.

Adopted.

Paragraph 27.

Adopted.

Paragraph 28. United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) In the first sentence of paragraph 28, we wanted to ask for clarification. It reads that, the Committee noted that UN entities continued to actively contribute to the protection of the Earth and to the management of natural resources through the operation of global observing systems. It reads here that the United Nations is operating global observing systems, is that what was intended here? Is that space systems or other types of systems?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. Secretariat.

Mr. W. BALOGH (Secretariat) This paragraph refers to global observing systems, this is GTOS, GCOS, GOOS, so the Global Terrestrial Observing System, Global Climate Observing System, Global Ocean Observing System, so those kind of systems. Those have operational status but of course the satellites are those of space agencies.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. Is the situation clear now? Are you satisfied, delegates, with the explanation offered by the Secretariat.

No objections to adopting this paragraph.

It is so decided.

Paragraph 29.

Adopted.

Paragraph 30.

Adopted.

Paragraph 31.

Adopted.

Paragraph 32.

Adopted.

Paragraph 33.

Adopted.

Paragraph 34.

Adopted.

Paragraph 35.

Adopted.

Paragraph 36. There, once again, technical presentations are represented, please check if you are concerned if the titles are correctly reflected here and complete and here I am especially addressing the representatives concerned having spoken.

Paragraph 36 is adopted.

Paragraph 37. First Brazil and then China.

Mr. A. TENÓRIO MOURÃO (Brazil) Just a minor modification. After consulting with the specialists in the Brazilian delegation, we feel that, at the beginning of the fourth line where there is information, that this should be substituted by, data, because it has to do with the nature of what is information and what is data and, if information is a type of geospatial data, we feel that it should be precise, to be technically precise this should be data. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, thank you. So we need precise information. Are there any difficulties with that?

China you have the floor.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Please allow me to go back to 36. ____ (?) by a representative of the Secretariat of GEO, so I am not sure whether it is a standard word using representative of the Secretariat of GEO or we use as suggested from the Secretariat to keep it consistent. As observer, maybe? Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, the Secretariat will respond.

With these slight changes we have thus approved paragraph 37.

Paragraph 38.

Approved.

Paragraph 39.

Approved.

Paragraph 40.

Approved.

Paragraph 41. Greece you have the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) First of all, I have to congratulate the Secretariat for the effort to reflect everything told by us. The only thing I would like also to add after, clear contact information, the last but one line, clear economic transparency, it is up to you, the English speaking, to find the most appropriate term. We speak for established office and clear contact information and clear evidence that the applicant would be ... sorry, I am confused, I have Addendum 3, sorry.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) We are just moving faster than the speed of thought.

Thus, paragraph 41 is approved.

Paragraph 42.

Approved.

Paragraph 43.

Approved.

Paragraph 44.

Approved.

Paragraph 45. Canada has the floor.

Ms. A-M. Lan PHAN (Canada) (*interpretation from French*) Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to address its satisfaction with regard to this paragraph. That said, I believe that some comments made under this agenda item need to be clarified. I suggest, therefore, adding a slight modification to this paragraph.

First of all, in the English text, at the end of the first sentence, I suggest adding, set of draft recommendations that will be reflected in chapter IV of CRP.3 document. So this would be an addition and a clarification at the end of the first sentence.

The second position that needs to be clarified has to do with the discussion that took place at this session of the Committee, as reflected in CRP.3, chapter II. Since CRP.3 is not a complete document, at this point in time, we need to know where amendments will be inserted, specifically in CRP.3. So those are the two modifications we wanted to suggest for this paragraph.

Furthermore, we have a suggestion, with your permission. The Brazilian delegation has made a proposal which can, I think, be added as a recommendation. I am referring to the non-paper distributed by Brazil to be consistent with our method of work, that too should be reflected in our report. It could be a CRP but we should keep track of that non-paper for the years to come because it was submitted by Brazil, we had it before us, I do not know if the Secretariat can help us with this. Maybe we should add a paragraph *45bis*, to say that the Committee took note of the Brazilian proposal and the document can be then ____ (?) as a conference room paper or something, so that we do not lose track of it.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much Canada. China has the floor.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Very briefly, China seconds the proposal made by Canada concerning the non-paper prepared by the Brazilian delegation and we hope that the Secretariat approaches the Brazilian delegation to prepare a CRP document to reflect the non-paper, then we will have a background document for the intersessional work for the next session of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) You have the floor.

New speaker. Very briefly we endorse the points highlighted by Canada and China. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Colombia.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Basically, two suggestions have been made by the Canadian delegation. The first two introduce some clarifications

with specific references to chapters in the document mentioned, in paragraph 45, that was one suggestion.

The other was to transform or to convert the non-paper, put forward by Brazil, into a CRP.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Brazil has the floor.

Mr. A. TENÓRIO MOURÃO (Brazil) Just to state that Brazil is comfortable with either leaving the document as a non-paper or introducing a conference room paper, if that is still possible at this point of the meeting, we are not sure about this, maybe the Secretariat can.. and also we do not know if this would also permit editorial changes to make this more adequate to the formats of conference room papers. We are comfortable with the proposition.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Brazil.

United States has the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) Mr. Chairman, my delegation would have no objection to re-issuing this non-paper as a conference room paper but I think there are a couple of practical aspects.

The first one is that the non-paper had been the subject of informal consultations and that there were a number of comments that were made that would be incorporated in the next version of the non-paper. My understanding, based on our discussions the other day, was that Brazil would take those comments, revise their non-paper and that it would be distributed, along with CRP.3, before the next meeting of the Committee for delegations to review. Even if we re-issue the non-paper as a CRP, it would have to be done within the next two hours in order for delegations to take that back with them because my understanding is that CRPs are not distributed generally as are the L documents and then the reports of the Committee. So, practically speaking, you will not have this non-paper in the form of a CRP unless it is issued before we leave because otherwise it will get issued as a CRP but it will not get distributed to missions, it will not get distributed to member States but the Secretariat can clarify that if I have it wrong.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. Brazil has the floor.

Mr. A. TENÓRIO MOURÃO (Brazil) The delegation from the United States also raises another point which is that this non-paper, though we understand that it could be convenient to register in the history of the Committee that we presented this document, is already outdated in a sense that we have already discussed this text with other delegations and we see now that we have to make significant changes to the structure and the wording, so there is also this point that we should bear in mind. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Canada please.

Ms. A-M. Lan PHAN (Canada) (*interpretation from French*) Thank you distinguished colleague for your comments. We fully understand the logistical constraints involved. What we suggest is to clearly indicate in our report that there has been a non-paper presented to the Committee and that Brazil is going to work, on the basis of that non-paper, to prepare recommendations and then we will know which non-paper we are referring to. So, we are fine with leaving it as a non-paper, not re-issued as a CRP, however, I do believe it needs to be mentioned, documented in some way.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) I would allow myself to point out to the distinguished delegate of Canada that you may not be entirely familiar with the way we handle this term non-paper. Sometimes it is not easy to make a formal reference to a non-paper. I am going to ask the Secretariat and the delegation of Brazil how we are going to do this.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Two points. First on the status of conference room papers. Conference room papers are in-session documents only, so they are only distributed during the time of the session.

With regard to the second point on how to reflect the Brazilian non-paper. We will get back to this, we will consult with our editorial section, so if we can come back to this in a while.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Very good. I think this is clear now. The Secretariat will come back with a specific proposal depending on what the editorial service has suggested.

So we have approved paragraph 45 with the understanding that the Secretariat will try to accommodate the concerns expressed.

Thus paragraph 45 is approved with that understanding.

The entire document A/AC.105/L.275/Add.2 is thus approved.

We will move on to A/AC.105/L.275/Add.3, recommendations and decisions.

Paragraph 1. Space and society.

Approved.

Paragraph 2. Japan has the floor.

Mr. K. MIYAZAKI (Japan) Japan made a statement under this agenda item, so please add Japan here. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, thank you very much Japan, it will be included in the list of States that submitted documents.

Paragraph 3. Japan.

Mr. K. MIYAZAKI (Japan) Regarding (d) international ____ (?) for space education, this is a tentative title of the presentation but I do not have the correct title in front of me so please check point and please rephrase with it.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, we totally understand the concern. The Secretariat will make the necessary adjustment to the title of Japan's presentation.

Thus we have approved this paragraph unless there are any further comments.

Paragraph 4.

Approved.

Paragraph 5.

Approved.

Paragraph 6.

Approved.

Paragraph 7.

Approved.

Paragraph 8.

Approved.

Paragraph 9.

Approved.

Paragraph 10. Nigeria has the floor.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) The first line of paragraph 10, I think something is missing in the first line, it says, the Committee noted that data derived from outer space. ____ (?) not complete and I think the Secretariat can fix that.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) I thank the delegate of Nigeria. Now or shall we continue? The Secretariat would like to put something here?

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) The Secretariat can do it later, no problem. It is not a major issue but something is missing there.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thus paragraph 10 is approved.

Paragraph 11.

Approved.

Paragraph 12.

Approved.

Paragraph 13.

Approved.

Paragraph 14.

Approved.

Paragraph 15.

Approved.

Paragraph 16.

Approved.

Paragraph 17.

Approved.

Paragraph 18.

Approved.

Paragraph 19

Approved.

Paragraph 20.

Approved.

Paragraph 21.

Approved.

Paragraph 22.

Approved.

Paragraph 23.

Approved.

Paragraph 24.

Approved.

Paragraph 25.

Approved.

Paragraph 26.

Approved.

Paragraph 27.

Approved.

Paragraph 28.

Approved.

Paragraph 29.

Approved.

Paragraph 30. The Secretariat has the floor.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) This is just an omission by the Secretariat. In paragraph 30, at the end, would be included that, statements were also made by the observers of Asia-Pacific Space Corporation

Organization (APSCO) and the IAASS, International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) *With this addition, the paragraph is approved.*

Paragraph 31.

Approved.

Paragraph 32.

Approved.

Paragraph 33.

Approved.

Paragraph 34. China has the floor.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Very briefly, just a technical issue, I think we can ask the Secretariat to verify whether, on the third line, the relative correspondence and statutes of that intergovernmental organization, should read, the convention of that intergovernmental organization. It is the standard word of statutes or since we have convention of APSCO rather than statutes.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, the Secretariat. Something special to add?

Paragraph 34 is thus approved.

Paragraph 35. Venezuela has the floor.

Mr. R. NAVARRO (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) We would like to add at the end of paragraph 35, the following, was agreed to delay it until the next session.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) If the delegate of Venezuela can read that proposal again please.

Mr. R. NAVARRO (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Once again, at the end of paragraph 35, which ends with CRP.8, I suggest adding the following, thus it was agreed to put off the decision until the next session taking into account the fact that the request was not presented sufficiently in advance.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Venezuela, give us a second please.

With your permission, I recall very well that it was the delegate of Switzerland that made this argument, so I am going to ask the delegate of Switzerland to explain again the rationale for that summary, basically the reasons, please.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) Excuse me, Mr. Chair, I was not completely attentive. You are discussing paragraph 35, is that right?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) You are not mistaken, we are discussing paragraph 35.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) Yes, but I think in relation to what this delegation said under this agenda item is represented later in a later paragraph, I think 41.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) No, with apologies, that is not accurate. In paragraph 41 we make general remarks, general. Part of the general discussion of the issues involved, whereas Venezuela made a specific reference to a specific concern here and, if I recall correctly, it had to do with the time of submission.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman, I understand that paragraph 41 is more general and concerns all applications for permanent observer status whereas paragraph 35 is indeed concerning only the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety. So I did not really listen to what the Venezuelan delegation was saying but I understand that you may want to have a mention of what this delegation said concerning the application of that Association in particular. Is that correct?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, that is right.

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) So what could be said, indeed what this delegation said, is that the contact address of this Association was not given in the charter of the Association which was presented, so added to the correspondence, and that the only contact address we had was in the signature of the letter addressed to the Director of OOSA in expressing the application and that this contact address was that of the Technical Centre of the European Space Agency and for this reason, as Switzerland is a member of the

European Space Agency, this delegation wanted to clarify with the European Space Agency what the relation between this Association for the Advancement of Space Safety and the European Space Agency before we could take any decision on accepting this Association as a permanent observer. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Switzerland. Of course we are not going to be able to reflect absolutely everything you have said but we will be adding a sentence to 35 and we will pick up on the Venezuelan proposal. A decision was to be deferred on this Association but we are going to sum up what you said in paragraph 35.

Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) I want to say in complete ____ (?) our colleague from Venezuela told us. I think we need to complete the last sentence saying that, nevertheless or something the decision was postponed or ____ (?) the next for further information. That is the sense that the colleague from Switzerland said last evening. We have to complete, why we do not decide.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, go ahead. United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) Mr. Chairman, my recollection was that it was not so much that this organization did not meet a certain timeline because we have not really set one, it was more there were other questions that had to be answered. So, my suggestion would be to add a sentence as follows: It was agreed to delay this request until the next session of the Committee taking into account the need for further information. I think that is more accurate.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Can you agree Madam with that proposal?

Ms. N. ARCHINARD (Switzerland) Yes, we do agree, thank you to the US delegation and thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) So with this addition.. Venezuela did you ask for the floor.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) No problem, just to be consistent, in paragraph 30 we have added the fact that two observers had taken the floor and we referred to one observer, the

candidature of which had been adopted. We cannot refer to that representative as an observer because they do not have observer status yet. So, we should say that they took the floor as an observer and that a representative of an institution then spoke. Have I been clear? It is true it is not very clear. In paragraph 30 we had suggested that we should add observers had also taken the floor. If we want to be perfectly consistent, it was the intergovernmental committee that took the floor and its observer status was agreed and they did make a presentation but when they spoke and gave their presentation they had not yet been given observer status, so I think we should align our words accordingly and our references.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) I quite understand. We cannot grant them observer status before we grant them observer status.

United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) This is where we are splitting hairs. In fact, both of them were observers because they had been granted observer status for this session of the Committee. The difference is that later we agreed to permanent observer status for one of those observers and we did not for the other. That does not mean that the other organization cannot come back next year and still ask for temporary observer status for that session. The paragraph 30, referring to both of them as observers does not prejudice the fact that later on we made a decision to make one of them a permanent observer and the other not. If you recall at the beginning of each of our sessions, we grant member States and other organizations observer status for this session without prejudice to eventual decision on whether they would be permanent observers, if I am making myself clear.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Venezuela.

Mr. R. BECERRA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, indeed, I do not wish to be overly painstaking here. Given what the US has said I believe that we are being consistent.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, I believe that the American delegation has been quite right in this regard and thank you Venezuela for trying to improve the text here, it is important not to predetermine matters given the fact that one of the observer status granted was permanent the other not.

Paragraph 35 has been adopted.

Paragraph 36. Austria.

Mr. W. LICHEM (Austria) Just a commentary that we should keep in mind. From our perspective, there is a fundamentally different set of criteria to approve observer status to someone within the ECOSOC system of organs and sub organs and COPUOS. There should be no conditionality developing that would take the authority of COPUOS to define the quality, the value of the contribution of observers in this Committee which are criteria which would not be housed in the ECOSOC decision-making process. I just wanted to make this remark. We should keep this in mind and we should not develop a conditionality of ECOSOC approval of outer space committee observer status.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. The Ambassador of Austria, who has just spoken, is a diplomat who has great experience, he has participated in the decision making resulting in rotation. I believe that these decisions must be respected, they are the logical outcome of the debate that ensued on this matter. Thank you very much Ambassador for your comments.

So, if I might return to paragraph 36. Would there be any other comments?

It is adopted.

China.

Mr. Y. XU (China) Very briefly, on the second line China would prefer to replace the word, from by concerning, then the second line goes like, containing information concerning non-governmental organizations.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) So, on paragraph 37 on this amendment.

Adopted.

Paragraph 38.

Approved.

Paragraph 39.

Adopted.

Paragraph 40. Libya.

Mr. El Hadi GASHUT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*) Thank you. There is a mistake in the Arabic text, in paragraph 39, it says ____ (?) instead of the ____ (?) which is ECOSOC. At any rate this is a specific of the Arabic text. Here it is Centre, it should be Council.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much Libya for your rectification of the Arabic version.

Paragraph 39, as amended, is adopted.

Paragraph 40 is adopted.

Paragraph 41. Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) As a matter of ____ (?) I applied for an intervention before you stated that 39 has been finished. I do not understand paragraph 39 because if I ____ (?) the list of non-governmental organizations it is just indicated in connection with many non-governmental organizations that they have had consultative status, that they received such a consultative status. For example, International Law Association received such a status very early after ____ (?) number two, International Astronautical Federation, International Academy of Astronautics, so why this is not appropriate and why it should not be requested from other non-governmental organizations. I do not understand it.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) If you are making a proposal, if you have language, something in writing, possibly we could understand better what you are driving at here. I would ask the representative of the Czech Republic the following, we have understood that this paragraph is not very logical. My question to you is, would you have any language that you could propose so as to reflect the comments that you have made. Do you have any proposal?

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) No, I do not have, Mr. Chairman, because I do not understand the substance of this requirement, so I could not suggest any improvement in the text because I do not see any reason for this requirement.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) It is quite clear that if you do not understand this paragraph, you cannot approve it either.

Colombia.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) There is a substance and I do not think that we should change everything as a point of order because many delegations have been trying to pose new things that did not exist or take out things that did exist, so, as a point of discipline, it is only a view expressed by some delegations, so I do not know why should we restrict it, it is a view and I think every view is respected. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Colombia. Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) I ask the floor for 41 but in any case, it is a view, if it is not understandable it is up to the one, or two or three expressing this view, so it is a problem of communication. We cannot touch on it, even it is not understandable, it is up to the others ____ (?). Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, that is true. In principle reports should be understandable, that is a general principle of operation, of course one can always improve the report but it is true that it was a fairly lively debate that ensued and quite a few delegations participated. Secretariat did you have something to add? Well, the Secretariat has nothing to add.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) In defence of a view that my delegation expressed and maybe I have been in the community too long because this paragraph makes perfect sense to me. There are two aspects of not understanding (a) that it is incoherent and this paragraph is not, or (b) one does not understand the position that a particular delegation took and that is the latter case here because this is very clear. I am more than happy to explain, one more time, why my delegation and others took the view that it is anachronistic, in our view, to require non-governmental organizations that want to be observers in COPUOS to go through the ECOSOC process, if the ECOSOC process does not move quickly and if, as a result, that NGO is barred from being an observer in the Committee. That was my point and I think it is quite clear there and that is what we have to look at next year. What does consultative status with ECOSOC do and, is it a hindrance and used as an excuse for not allowing certain NGOs to be able to participate in our work, that was the point. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Well I think that it is clear that we have certainly identified the originators of this paragraph, the sponsors of this paragraph, so I believe that the

Secretariat and the Chair have nothing more to add. So I would turn to Mr. Kopal, can we adopt this paragraph given the US explanations just tendered.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) I did not understand the translation of your answer. Could the interpreter repeat your answer in English?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Quite simply, can we adopt this paragraph Professor Kopal as it stands? Can we adopt this paragraph 39 as it stands?

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) This was your last sentence but the last but one sentence was not well translated.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) I was saying that we have one delegation that has clearly expressed the thought that this paragraph makes sense and my question was, can we approve the paragraph as it stands?

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) As you wish!

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thus the paragraph is approved.

Paragraph 41. Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) Just to add, after the last colon and before entire evidence, to put, representativity and clear economic resources, and then entire evidence etc. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Fine. Would there be any objections to this proposal on the part of Greece? Would it be necessary to repeat this? Austria you have the floor.

Mr. W. LICHEM (Austria) Just quickly, I am not aware that this criterion is applied to the admission process to the ECOSOC system.

The availability of financial resources is of no pertinence to the potential contribution to be made to the work of COPUOS. In that sense, ____ (?) qualified to make a contribution, I would not think that it will be necessary that they are wealthy.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, well I am not going to re-open the debate on this, I would say that clearly. Colombia.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) I think for the second time we should not re-open that debate but I do agree with Ambassador Lichem that we are not a financial control institution, the Committee, as such, is not someone that should get into the pockets of everyone. I think that the Secretariat has done a good job and if we are to change the criteria, following the proposal by the President, to create a group that should filter, if you wish, the accession of some NGOs we should finish the debate on that point. We open a group and we control whatever we want within that group and it is not worth it to create more and more criteria. The world is changing, 40 years, 50 years ago there was no accession for civil society now, we have it, so ____ (?) just for the sake of the view of some States, I do not think so, Mr. Chairman, so I am for the creation of that group and I would be working with that, if the other delegations wish so. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much Colombia.

Paragraph 41 is adopted.

Paragraph 42.

Approved.

Sorry, China on 42 or 43?

Mr. Y. XU (China) On the second line, China would propose to replace, the consultative observer, by the permanent observer status, I think that is what we are talking about in terms of observer status of non-governmental organizations and, at the end of this sentence, to add, with the Committee, to make it quite clear that we are talking about permanent observer status of NGO with the Committee, not consultative status, because there is no consultative observers of ECOSOC.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Secretariat on this.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Paragraph 42, the Secretariat understood this point when it was raised that it was actually to seek guidance from the ECOSOC on their criteria for consultative observer status for non-governmental organizations, that is how we understood it.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) China.

Mr. Y. XU (China) I am sorry Mr. Chairman for asking for the floor again because in ECOSOC there is no consultative observer, even NGOs have consultative status with ECOSOC, they are not observers, so that is the problem. This is not about ECOSOC, it is about the criteria for COPUOS.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Fine. Secretariat. Could you please repeat what you wish to propose here?

Mr. Y. XU (China) I will read again. Paragraph 42, some delegations were of the view that it was important to seek guidance from the Economic and Social Council on the criteria for permanent observer status of non-governmental organizations with the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. I believe that what China has proposed is now clear. Are there any objections?

If that is not the case, let us go on to adopt this paragraph.

Paragraph 43.

Adopted.

Paragraph 44.

Adopted.

Paragraph 45. China.

Mr. Y. XU (China) In paragraph 44, at the end of this paragraph, China would prefer to add, to non-governmental organizations.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you China.

So, as amended, adopted.

Paragraph 45.

Adopted.

Paragraph 46.

Adopted.

Paragraph 47.

Adopted.

Paragraph 48.

Adopted.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) I would like to thank all delegates. Now, with regard to Add.3, we have left a paragraph pending, paragraph 10, and Nigeria made some suggestions. My question to Nigeria is, do you have a specific proposal?

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) No, I thought that we agreed that the Secretariat was going to provide something there. I will go with whatever the Secretariat says.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Very well, in that case the Secretariat will edit it and we will approve it later. We will wait for a little while with paragraph 10 but maybe you can help the Secretariat.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) No, this paragraph will not ____ (?) our work. Basically, when you say you derive data from outer space and then you come back and talk about remote sensing, are we talking about data from outer space environment or, are we talking about Earth environment. I am not talking about the fact that you need to go into such full detail but I am sure there is enough knowledge in the Secretariat to understand what I am talking about.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) Paragraph 10, the Secretariat proposes the following. The Committee noted that space-based data and services such as, and so forth, so space-based data instead of data derived from outer space.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much Secretariat. If there is no objection, with the amendment proposed by the Secretariat, the paragraph is approved.

Paragraph 10 is approved.

Now I am going to call on the Secretariat once again, it has to do with some of the comments made earlier.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) In the section that we have just completed on other matters, taking into account the decisions this morning that the Committee, at its next session in 2010, should consider future role and activities of the Committee, which has been on the agenda of the Committee as a subtopic under other matters for some years now, and also

taking into account the reflection and decisions by the Committee this morning that the Secretariat should provide some text reflecting the need for the G15 to look into the balancing of technical presentations and statements and deliberations of the substantive work. The Secretariat has tried to come up with a solution here, we would propose to insert a new subsection 4 which would read, future role and activities of the Committee and it would become then paragraph 49 and I will read the proposed paragraph.

The Committee requested the Group of 15 to consider how to optimize the time of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies taking into account the need to balance the value brought by the technical presentations and the need for adequate time for substantive consideration of the issues before the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

I will read it again.

The Committee requested the Group of 15 to consider how to optimize the time of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies taking into account the need to balance the value brought by the technical presentations and the need for adequate time for substantive consideration of the issues before the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

And then, Mr. Chairman, as paragraph 50, it would be right after this new paragraph I have read.

The Committee agreed to consider the topic, future role and activities of the Committee, at its fifty-third session in 2010.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much Secretariat. Indeed, we are grateful for having drafted these paragraphs, they do reflect a constant concern which has cropped up during this debate.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) I would like to add in optimization, rationalization and optimization because yesterday I spoke about rationalization of the work. Thank you and thank you for the effort of the Secretariat.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Colombia you have the floor.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) Thanks to the Secretariat for a very good job done in the two former presented papers and this proposal. I am not a native speaker, I think it is about optimization of the

use of time, I do not know if we can optimize time but the use of it, probably. English speakers would know more about it.

The proposal and the source of the proposal puts before an open evidence that COPUOS is growing up as well as space activities, that we have to face new challenges also for COPUOS that probably its original nature as a commission have at any time in the future would be, or should be, upgraded to a programme of the United Nations or an organization. I cannot predict the future but I think that the concerns that inspired this proposal are that we have many more actors, many more presentations, so that maybe what we have to optimize is not only the use of time in this particular forum, in this room, but also probably to organize some side events so that the attendee would choose which presentations they want to attend or not. I do not know if you need to add it, I do not think so, probably we are not growing that fast but just to take into consideration.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you for your comments and also with regard to the optimization and rationalization of the use of time.

Nigeria please.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) As you know, my delegation raised this issue at this session of the Committee and, as you yourself eluded to, this has been a recurring problem for this Committee. I just want to state that we are very satisfied with the draft presented by the Secretariat and we are confident that, with the talent available in the Secretariat and in the G15, an amicable solution will be found to this problem. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much Nigeria for your comment. I see no further requests for the floor, thus document A/AC.105/L.275/Add.3, can we approve it or not?

First, Czech Republic then United States.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) Mr. Chairman, I have a modest request, at the end of each report of the Committee there used to be always the schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies indicating the venue and the dates of the session, I could not find any such agreement in the present addenda, could you tell me where it was or where it should be? Where could I find it? Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) I am wondering the same thing. Secretariat has the floor.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) That was exactly the point that the Secretariat was going to address but it is good that you remind us. Delegations have now witnessed something really I would say it is a tragic thing but it is also kind of fun that, for the very first time, the Secretariat has omitted a section of the report. There should be, and there will be, included a section that will read as follows:

Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and there will be inserted a paragraph, the Committee agreed on the following tentative timetable for its session and those of its subcommittees in 2010, and here comes the dates. Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 8-19 February 2010, location Vienna; Legal Subcommittee, 22 March to 1 April 2010, location Vienna; Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 9-18 June 2010, location Vienna. I will repeat the dates again.

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 8-19 February 2010, location Vienna; Legal Subcommittee, 22 March to 1 April 2010, location Vienna; Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 9-18 June 2010, location Vienna.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and, once again, I really apologize for omitting a section.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Not to worry, the Secretariat has done an excellent job.

United States, you asked for the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) In fact, Mr. Chairman, I was going to make the same point that our distinguished colleague from the Czech Republic was going to make, I can only say that this just confirms that great minds think alike. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Very good but do we have people who think differently or we all think the same.

Greece you have the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) Concerning the duration of the Legal Subcommittee is reduced, the normal duration, and we are opposed to that. Who

decided and who proposed that? Without being asked is unacceptable.

(continued in French) Otherwise this would be a coup d'état, seriously. I am speaking very candidly here, this is something that a delegation suggested at the last session to reduce the duration and now we are witnessing a coup d'état, I do not see any other reasonable explanation.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)* Distinguished delegate of Greece, please calm down, we understand your concern very well and I am putting this question to the Secretariat. Why these specific dates for the Legal Subcommittee? I am not aware of any decision as to reducing the duration of the Legal Subcommittee session at any time. Was this a mistake?

Please, distinguished delegates, this is a sensitive question, I am going to ask Madam Mazlan Othman to elucidate the matter.

Czech Republic but first I would like Dr. Othman to share some thoughts with us.

Ms. M. OTHMAN (Director, OOSA) Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, we are waiting for clarification and we will let Natercia Rodrigues come back to us on some points. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)* Point of order. Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) *(interpretation from French)* Mr. Chairman, I truly regret to repeat this. Five or six years ago I said that Greece, with all the other orthodox countries, would never accept having sessions or meetings during the Holy Week at Easter time and this is clear. April 4 next year is Easter, we cannot be obliged, we cannot be asked to be here during Holy Week and this goes for all orthodox countries. We respect all faiths, all religions but this cannot continue. Even this session, Monday, maybe it was a surprise to you that I was not present but it was a Holy Day for us, Pentecost, and again we need to stop doing this, year and year. Thank you very much, I apologize from the bottom of my heart for having raised my voice earlier.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)* Thank you. This is a delicate matter.

Czech Republic.

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) Well, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to make it clear that I believe that this shorter session, by one day, as it is proposed, has been because of Good Friday on 2 April, it is a holiday here in Austria.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)* The situation then is not as serious as we all thought, we are talking about only one day right? Very well.

Now, the Secretariat please.

Ms. N. RODRIGUES (Secretariat) Distinguished delegates, maybe I can give you some background that will help you put in perspective some of the challenges we face when we do try and schedule the meetings for you. One of the complications that is a little bit difficult for us as the Secretariat is that we have new conference facilities in M building and so there is a lot of shifting until that is sorted out but the most critical problem which affects our capacity to deliver services to you is the following.

Even if we were to shift the Legal Subcommittee one week before so we can have a full date period or one week after Easter so we can have another full 10-day period means that we will be running two meetings, one in conflict with CND or in conflict with UNCITRAL and that raises the issue of the capacity of UNOV to provide interpretation services for you, we do not have the financial resources or the capacity to manage two teams of interpreters for these meetings.

The CHAIRMAN *(interpretation from Spanish)* I thank the Secretariat for this explanation.

Colombia has the floor.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, and thanks to the distinguished colleague from Greece to highlight that new agenda and time for it. I think that it is unacceptable that such a short time would be dedicated to our deliberations since there is no committee of permanent representatives here, we meet just every year, once a year for every subject, not like in other agencies that meet regularly every month or every two months, it is a point that has been proposed by this delegation on previous occasions. So, in respecting the religious schedule of some delegations, I think that this delegation will have no objection to postpone some of them considering also what the distinguished colleague from the Secretariat said. To postpone or to put it before but we cannot reduce the time. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you Colombia. Any other delegations wishing to take the floor.

Brazil and then Mexico.

Mr. A. TENÓRIO MOURÃO (Brazil) Considering the comments by the Secretariat and also the remark by the representative of the Czech Republic also, that there is the issue of Good Friday, the Brazilian delegation would be willing to accept the reduction of this one day of the meeting if there was a remark in the report saying that this does not imply a decision on the reduction of the meeting time in future sessions. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*) First of all, I am not satisfied with the Secretariat's explanation. Secondly, I cannot accept the solution, the Solomonian decision, proposed by our friend from Brazil. The session can be held either before, from 8-19 March or from 6-16 April but not during Holy Week and Holy Week starts with Easter Sunday.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) From 8-18 March and what was the other alternative?

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*) That was 6 April as the start date. It is up to you but I cannot accept having a session during Holy Week. Once and for all, I have been saying this for ten years, I think we are here in a.. I hesitate to use the word that I was going to use.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Mexico.

Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) This is a situation that the Secretariat always has to deal with. It is not possible, within the existing resources, to provide services to two sessions at the same time. Also, the States always ask the Secretariat to do more but within these resources. So, one solution is asking for voluntary contributions, this is one of those things that keeps happening. If somebody, a State or an observer, wanted to make a voluntary contribution in some form or maybe if a room were to become available, the Committee is not the only group that meets in this building. For my delegation, the solution proposed by our colleague from Brazil could be fine and the year

after make sure that our session does not coincide with Easter week. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Who else asked for the floor? Nigeria and then the United States.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) I think what the last speaker, the distinguished delegate of Mexico, has just stated is reflected in the fact that you need to understand how the UN works, most of us do not. Now, the fact is, as presented by the Secretariat, there are many meetings that are competing with us, it is understandable that because we meet only once a year, the Legal Subcommittee meets only once a year therefore it might require preferential treatment but this problem has not come before now. I am not sure that the Secretariat is in a position to resolve that problem now by consulting with the Committee's services office. We either go with the suggestion by Brazil or we may ask the Secretariat, without agreeing on anything now, to find another solution that will not incur any additional expense and will allow the Legal Subcommittee to hold its meeting for two weeks but that decision cannot be made today. The further alternative is that, those who want that meeting for ten days and it is in conflict with the schedule of the UN conference services, are ready to fund the interpretation. I know I do not want anybody to stand at the door to beat me up when I am getting out of here for that suggestion but that is the truth, I just want us to be pragmatic, let us be real, that the Secretariat cannot solve this problem today for us and the Brazilian proposal is about the best alternative that I see. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) This has been a recurring issue for many years. One year we have two full weeks, another year we have to reduce this by a day because of the Good Friday holiday and of course that does not, in any way, prejudice the fact that the next year we have ten full working days. The problem that we are faced with now is that we have to adopt the report and if we do not agree on the dates then the report does not get agreed to and then we having nothing to present to the General Assembly because there is no way you are going to come up with a formulation that allows us to conclude our work and then leave it in the hands of the Secretariat to come up with an acceptable alternative without reconvening the Committee. I trust the Secretariat and have all the faith in the world in them, however, that does not necessarily mean they will

come up with a decision that is going to make everyone happy. So, we are going to have to face up to the reality that we either agree now on how to proceed with our work next year or we are going to be without a report and we are going to be without a report to the General Assembly, I am not quite sure how else to solve this. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. No one else wishes to speak on this?

France.

Mr. S. GUÉTAZ (France) (*interpretation from French*) Along the lines of what has been said by the various delegations we in turn would like to support Brazil's proposal which seems the soundest. We would place our trust in the Secretariat as to the date availability rather the room availability issue, something very important, there are other conferences which are being run at this point over these periods of time and I think that it is high time for us to conclude and to wind up and to approve the report.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*) Well, this very last proposal is not a proper one. Actually, this is just simply blackmail, this sort of behaviour. Ten years ago it was our friend from Mexico who was in the seat of Dr. Othman and I remember having raised the question and I said that next time I would not go along with this and then our friend Sergio left the Office and, once again, the same pattern emerges, this is non-respect for 300 million orthodox in the world. We respect all faiths, all denominations, all religions but we will not condone this sort of behaviour any more. Indeed, to respond to our dear colleague from the United States, I believe that we can approve the report except for this paragraph and then do what we have been doing for several years now in ITU, agree the remainder by correspondence.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Belgium.

Ms. S. DE CARTIER (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*) To get out of this deadlock we could have some clarification from the Secretariat as to the possibility of alternative dates subsequently or not. It would be helpful for us to get an indication from them as to what other options there are. As for our Greek colleague, I quite feel for him with

the religious considerations here but we are working with the UN calendar and we have to respect as many holidays as possible, sometimes we observe certain Muslim holidays, sometimes not, in Austria we had a holiday last week and we did not observe it in the United Nations. We have to do our best to do what we can with the resources available. I believe that we could have a commitment not to schedule this during Easter week next year might be an alternative so as to enable us to stop this meeting before 8 p.m. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much. The Chairman proposes the following. Delegate of Greece please! Please let us think this through because this is something that we really must take a decision on. The Chair is going to dare to propose something given what has been said here.

We would ask the Secretariat to seek to plan, most methodically and in due time and in advance, the dates that our meetings are going to be scheduled and we cannot be surprised at the eleventh hour of the plans which are being made, so I would respectfully indicate that to the Secretariat.

Secondly, we must demonstrate trust in the Secretariat, we can always request it to do this and require it to do that but we must have trust in the Secretariat that they are going to seek and find a viable, sustainable alternative on the basis of the criteria that we have here. So I suggest that we adopt the report because we have no other issue under consideration and we would leave it up to the Secretariat, within a two-week period of time, to make a clear proposal to all the delegations present here so that next year we do not have this problem arising again. I hope you can go along with this, this would be the Chairman's proposal.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Mexico, Chile.

Mr. S. CAMACHO-LARA (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*) My delegation could support your proposal but I would like to point out that it is possible that the Legal Subcommittee meeting might take place after the session of the Committee, or at least very close to the dates of the Committee meeting itself, because we will not have a two-week stretch during which both the rooms and the interpreters are going to be available. It would be good if the delegations would all bear that in mind and in any case the dates might not prove acceptable for certain countries then because those countries have certain calendars that they must abide by.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, thank you. Of course that would be taken into consideration.

Chile you have the floor.

Mr. J. IGLESIAS MORI (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Given the deadlock before us because as a delegation that is how we perceive this, Chile quite agrees with what Belgium has said. We all respect religious holidays but we have commitments and we full well understand the position of the delegate of Greece, this is not a novel issue that we are confronted with. Chile would just like to support your proposal Chairman which, as France has indicated, is the soundest and most realistic one because otherwise we can keep going on *sine die*.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much. So, I would like to put the question to you, ladies and gentlemen, delegates, can we take a decision on the proposal that I have made.

United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) Could you repeat the proposal one more time so we are clear on how we are going to proceed. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) With pleasure, yes certainly. I will sum up. Firstly, we would be adopting the report. Secondly, we would be requesting the Secretariat to allow for next year's planning to be done with sufficient advance time so that we have advanced planning ensured by the Secretariat. So that would be a recommendation to the Secretariat. The third point, the Secretariat now has two weeks, on the basis of the elements presented here, to come forward with a proposal, with information for the member States as to alternative dates that can be made available to respond to the concerns expressed here.

United States, would you like to take the floor?

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) I apologize because I am not quite sure how this plays out. If we adopt the report now then the dates for the Legal Subcommittee remain blank or are they bracketed or do they stay the same, that is the dates that have been proposed for 2010? That is the first question. The second question is, if the dates for the Legal Subcommittee are up in the air pending the Secretariat getting back to everyone in two weeks then I have

questions on how that actually works. Will the Secretariat send out a note verbale and then wait for member States to come in and then decide whether there is consensus on what has been proposed by the Secretariat? Or, is the Secretariat getting information that we can then use next year in deciding how to proceed with the scheduling of the Legal Subcommittee? I am not trying to make this overly complicated but I have to say that I have not seen this kind of process used before and it would be nice to have some certainty before we leave as to what the dates are for the Legal Subcommittee. Finally, Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that we are not going to be able to satisfy everybody on this particular point. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. China.

Mr. Y. XU (China) China can support your proposal but if the Secretariat come to think about rescheduling the Legal Subcommittee, we would like the Secretariat also to look at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee meeting schedule because it covers China's Spring Festival. I am sorry to say that but if we want to reconsider the schedule I think that China's ____ (?) should be taken into account, that is ____ (?) China's Spring Festival of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee meeting. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you for this contribution delegate of China. I am going to give the floor to the Head of Conference Services who is going to be giving us a run down on the alternatives and the prospects in this regard.

Mr. I. KARBUZKY (Chief, Conference Service) I am not completely briefed of the details but of what I heard the situation is not very unusual, it happens many times. We have resolutions, however, that call for the smoothing out the calendar as much as possible so we try to avoid peaks and valleys in the calendar so we try to use every possible week of the calendar. Unfortunately, some weeks are cut shorter because of UN official holidays, we have a resolution on the books which also forbids meetings during orthodox Good Friday so that is also one consideration. Others that I heard are not yet on the books preventing meetings but obviously if they become part of the planning considerations then we take care of those as well. The Vienna calendar and the UN calendar as a whole is packed as you know, resources are tight and allocated in order for the best utilization possible. Because of that, unfortunately, this or that intergovernmental or expert body faced with this issue

meeting shorter weeks, they are not very popular, obviously the alternatives could be costly overflowing to the following week or starting earlier but that is how it is. Certainly we can look at the calendar with the Secretariat colleagues and try to come up with something more that would facilitate your work better but chances are that that would collide with CND, with the Crime Congress and with many other things, so it is not going to be easy to find something that could satisfy everybody, unfortunately. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much, please Mr. Karbuzky do not leave us. So, what you were saying is that for you it is almost impossible to meet on any dates apart from those referred to by the Secretariat?

Mr. I. KARBUZKY (Chief, Conference Service) I do not know if the January dates were mentioned but in January we can offer dates that would not conflict with any other bodies here in Vienna but I wonder if you would consider that an option.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Secretariat please.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretariat) First of all, these were the dates the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, when it met in February, agreed on, so those dates are recorded in the STSC report. The same for the Legal Subcommittee, those dates that we are now debating are recorded in the LSC report, so there are a couple of months that we have had those dates on the table. Now, there is actually, as Imre(?) said here, an alternative and that is 11-22 January but, considering that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would meet 8-19 February, it is of course up to delegations to decide the switching of the two Subcommittees, so the S&T could be held 11-22 January and the Legal Subcommittee 8-19 February. However, it could be quite difficult with regard to reporting documentation because the Secretariat would then only have about one week or so between the two subcommittees, so that would be a really big problem for the Secretariat to accommodate. So if you decide that you have to bear with the Secretariat that documentation could be a problem for these meetings.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you. As far as I am concerned this might be a complicated solution, there is not much time allowed for delegations coming from afar, this might not be an ideal solution. Would there be any other views from the room? No magical wands could be used to make this problem go away?

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*) Well I would just simply like to ask the Head of Conference Service whether there are any dates available in May, so that our Secretariat could possibly have enough time to prepare for the session so that they would not be too squeezed between February and March?

Mr. I. KARBUZKY (Chief, Conference Service) Unfortunately any other two-week period would mean overlapping with one other Vienna-based body, other than the January dates quoted by Niklas the next opening is July. Then again, we are here to service you so if we absolutely have to overlap then of course we will incur costs, it is possible to do it, it is not ideal, that would entail a lot of freelance recruitment, there would be cost implications and that is why I would appeal to either to stick with the original dates or work with us and find dates where no such overlap would occur. Of course some also representing here the documentation processing side and clearly the reasons Niklas mentioned are weighing very heavily and cost implications could arise there as well unfortunately.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much. The Secretariat, Dr. Othman would we have the financial resources to cope with this solution.

Ms. M. OTHMAN (Director, OOSA) The answer is no, we do not have the resources.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) United States.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) That is exactly the point. We did agree to these dates in the report of the Legal Subcommittee, even if we had this debate at that time I still am under the impression that this would remain unsolvable because of the calendar of conferences. The second problem is that even if we did want to move the meeting to a different time it is clear that there are financial implications which would mean a problem in the General Assembly, at least for my delegation, because this would create a situation where we have a budget programme implication statement which would require extrabudgetary funds to be given to COPUOS and we would have a repeat of what we had with SPIDER, more than likely this would all have to go to a vote and we would be creating a huge problem for ourselves. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you United States. Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*) Well, we are the last people on the planet who would really like to overburden the United Nations budget which has been so heavily taxed and put upon so I believe that the various solutions calling upon freelancers etc. Since there are no other alternatives than the January dates then I do not see how we can manage. You see, this is really something which considerably pains me because I see that no due account has been taken of these needs, I do not wish to be unkind to the Secretariat but possibly they did not quite take seriously what I said ten years ago. I can yield but this is the very last time, the last concession because this really must be respected. The Head of Conference Service, sorry I do not know exactly what your title is, I do not believe that the UN system fails to respect other religious holidays of other denominations. I would like to apologize, I know that my Chinese friends are celebrating their Spring Festival and I would certainly have dearly loved to go there to be present at such a momentous holiday. The only thing that I would like to request is that, in organizing the debate, one should be able to wind up a bit earlier than usual, here I am speaking about my working group because really I must be able to leave Wednesday. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much, delegate of Greece, thank you for this demonstration of spirit of compromise and understanding. It is 5.55 p.m. so this is important for this compromise to be reflected and duly appreciated.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for its excellent work, so we are going to be taking up the originally proposed dates and in no case will a precedent thereby be created for the future. With these good words and with the present situation availing I hope there is no objection to our adoption of the report I have now concluded this debate. Thank you very much.

United States has the floor.

Mr. K. HODGKINS (United States of America) I do not mean to prolong deliberations here but my understanding is we still have paragraph 45 of Add.2 that is still outstanding. I am not sure how we are supposed to approach this, we have paragraphs outstanding and then we spend an hour on the debate that is then right back where we started the first time and now we have parts of the report that are unfinished. I appreciate the fact that is almost 6 p.m. but, on the other hand, I do think we have to either

agree to paragraph 45 in Add.2 remains as written or we have to have the revised paragraph. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, thank you, I am going to ask the Secretariat to speak.

Mr. W. BALOGH (Secretariat) Indeed this paragraph is still open. In consultation with the Brazilian and Canadian delegations with which the following solution will indeed turn the non-paper into a conference room paper and I have heard that the possibility to disseminate this conference room paper still to all delegations next week and what we will do is to add a paragraph 43*bis* in which you reflect the following and I will read it out.

The Committee also noted that Brazil had submitted a proposal for a set of draft recommendations on ways and means of fostering international cooperation with a view to building up national infrastructure for the use of space-derived geospatial data. Then in brackets we will make a reference to this conference room paper.

Paragraph 44 will then remain unchanged and in paragraph 45 we will just slightly change the first sentence that this will become, the Committee also agreed that Brazil would hold informal, intersessional consultations with all interested members of the Committee to reach consensus on their proposal for a set of draft recommendations. So the only change is, to reach consensus on their proposal for a set of draft recommendations. We hope that that solution would be agreeable.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Yes, Brazil.

Mr. A. TENÓRIO MOURÃO (Brazil) May I just propose one slight change because we do not want to be misinterpreted with our proposal. We would like to think this as more of a contribution to the elaboration of recommendations, rather than proposal for recommendations, because we thought that other countries would also present their proposals in this session. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Very well. With these comments I am going to ask first, by way of precaution, if we have anything else pending. United States?

Can we then consider paragraph 45 approved and then move on to approve the report?

Once again, can we proceed to approve the report?

The report is thus approved.

Finally, I would like to say a few words of thanks, please be patient, to the entire Secretariat which has accomplished extraordinary work, Madam Othman, the entire team, thank you very much. It has been a very intense couple of weeks, there have been a number of very interesting innovations introduced into our work and we should all be proud to have accomplished what we have accomplished as reflected in the report.

Colombia, then Nigeria and Greece.

Mr. J. OJEDA BUENO (Colombia) Thanks to COPUOS as a whole and to the Secretariat for a very good job done together. As a representative of Colombia, it is a pride also to say that you conducted in the best way your experience and your wisdom brought us to very good conclusions of this meeting. I think that all contributions made by all delegations were welcome and we respect the spirit of consensus in Vienna. Thanks again to the Secretariat, in the name of some other countries of the GRULAC we are proud to have had you here for this year. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much Colombia for your words. Nigeria.

Mr. A. ABIODUN (Nigeria) Thank you for this opportunity to thank you personally and on behalf of the Africa group for the leadership you provided us at this meeting. We faced many challenges but just like last week I said through the spirit of consensus we managed to overcome them. This particular session, the one word to identify probably its greatest achievement it is the fact that this Committee is more appreciative of the need to make the outer space environment saner for future space operations not only for space powers but for space powers to be. My delegation leaves this place with a lot of satisfaction on what has been accomplished and that could not have been possible without the effort of the interpreters and Conference Service people who should have left by now because according to my laptop it is 6.04 p.m.

We thank also the Secretariat for its diligence and for the pressure they managed to withstand in spite of our bombardments throughout the whole period. I also want to thank all delegates for their constructive contributions to the work of this Committee and to all your supporters on the bench, the first Vice-Chairman,

the second Vice-Chairman as well. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much. Thank you distinguished delegate of Nigeria for your kind words addressed to the presidency.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*) Chairman, since I did not have an opportunity to welcome and congratulate you when you first came to the podium, let me do so now.

I have greatly appreciated your skills, you are one of the veterans of this forum and on many occasions you and your colleagues, one of your colleagues is no longer with us unfortunately, but you have honoured us with your presence, with your excellent participation, you have been here for a long time. So, very sincerely, let me say the work accomplished during this session was truly fruitful and I think we can continue in the same vein and in the same spirit. We have been able to overcome obstacles and this is very positive, we were able to take decisions and even though we have not found a formula or a complete resolution of the issues but it is very important that we have moved towards mutual understanding with regard to the need to protect outer space.

I think that with the spirit of Latin America, the spirit which, if I may say so, is somewhat sentimental or emotional, you have been able, my dear colleague, to steer this ship through difficult waters to a successful conclusions. There are many difficulties of an organizational nature and you have overcome them in a spectacular fashion. We are thankful to you for your own contribution, the paper you have presented to us on UN space policies this is something that we are going to study profoundly and work on that basis in the future. These are subjects, these are issues that we have been tackling for half a century and it is very important.

Since I have the floor, I would like to point out that the response which you received from the Head of the United Nations University was written, from the diplomatic point of view, from the point of view of courtesy, in a way that is really not acceptable. That gentleman has written to the Chairman of our Committee and asked his secretary or his deputy to sign it. This is lack of respect. If I were in your place I would react in an appropriate fashion. Our colleague, Professor Othman, knows what I am talking about. This is truly a travesty of diplomatic courtesy.

Once again I thank you very much from the bottom of my heart, I wish you a safe trip home, all the best to your family and let me also thank the two vice chairpersons, the Secretariat, all friends and, last but not least, my friends in the interpretation booths, the interpreters and the engineers. Thank you very much and I wish everybody a good trip to your homeland. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much for your kind words.

Mr. S. GUÉTAZ (France) (*interpretation from French*) Chairman, I will be extremely brief. I would like to thank you, the bureau and, through you, all member States of the Committee which have, this week, made important decisions with regard to the long-term sustainability of space activities. The decisions were made after long informal consultations led by your predecessor, Mr. Brachet. France is aware of the importance of these decisions for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee which has worked over the years and now has started a new body of work for the development of a technical and scientific approach involving all experts in the area and the Committee has agreed to include the issue in its agenda and the fact that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee provides great legitimacy to this work because it is the legitimacy conveyed by the United Nations.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much distinguished delegate of France. On behalf of all of us, thank you.

Canada has the floor to be followed by Austria.

Ms. P. WILLIAMS (Canada) I can assure you I will be very brief but, on behalf of the Canadian delegation, I want to thank you for your chairmanship and I also want to thank Madam Othman and the OOSA Secretariat for the work that they have done which is certainly tremendous. From where we are sitting we can see that COPUOS is entering another important phase and that, in the years ahead, the range of initiatives that we have adopted today will provide for a rich dialogue among our member States on how we go about maintaining the peaceful uses of outer space. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much Canada for your kind words. Thank you on behalf of the Secretariat and the two vice chairs.

Ms. C. REINPRECHT (Austria) I really want to be brief. This is just on behalf of my country,

Austria, to warmly thank you for your excellent chairpersonship. You have instilled us with inspiration and structured the debates really very ably. I just want to thank you from the bottom of our heart and would hope that you come back to us and visit our country again. Thanks very much and thanks to all the delegations for these fruitful discussions and we hope to see you again next year. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*) I would like to thank you for your very kind words, for the Chair and everybody thank you.

I, too, would like to address words of thanks to the two vice chairpersons who have done an excellent job, to the Secretariat, to Ms. Samaniego in the back of the room who is a tireless co-worker dealing with very complicated issues, to all of those upstairs who are interpreting our thoughts and our ideas, it is a great honour and privilege to work with you, both last year and this year. We have a year ahead of us, there is a lot to be done and we are all working for the same cause, the development of a better human society. Thank you very much.

The meeting closed at 6.14 p.m.