

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space***Unedited transcript*614th Meeting

Wednesday, 9 June 2010, 3 p.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu (Romania)

The meeting was called to order at 3.22 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 614th meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This afternoon we will continue our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views. We will begin our consideration of agenda item 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, and agenda item 7, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III.

I would like to cordially invite delegates, following the plenary at 6.30 p.m., between us maybe up here, for a reception hosted by Romania in the Mozart Room at the VIC Restaurant.

Before I open the consideration of our agenda for this afternoon, I would like to inform delegations that I have received only six requests for the floor this afternoon in the list of speakers. In view of our effort to optimize the use of time available, I invite you to consider making statements under the agenda for this afternoon.

General exchange of views (agenda item 5)

Distinguished delegates, I would like now to continue our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea,

His Excellency Mr. Shim Yoon-Joe, the Ambassador and the Chief of the Permanent Mission.

Mr. Y.-J. SHIM (Republic of Korea): Thank you. Thank you for the floor Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin by extending my sincere congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on the election at this fifty-third session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Your expertise in this field of activities will no doubt serve us well during our deliberations over the coming days and you can count on my delegation's full support for a successful outcome of this session.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of the Republic of Korea has developed its space programme with firm conviction that the peaceful use of outer space would contribute to the advancement of human life. My delegation is, therefore, gratified to note that space science and its applications continue to prove their worth, especially as progress in space-related science and its applications, such as meteorology, communications, remote sensing and disaster management, has improved the lives and eased the suffering of a growing number of people around the world.

In the wake of the terrible destruction of the earthquakes in Haiti and Peru, for example, data sharing and satellite imagery from the Korea Multi-Purposes Satellite-2, where KOMPSAT-2 contributed to international efforts to review and restore the affected regions.

In light of the benefits from space science and technology, my delegation notes with satisfaction the active role played by the COPUOS in reviewing the scope of international cooperation in the peaceful uses

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of outer space, encouraging continued research and the dissemination of information on outer space and securing outer space for peaceful purposes.

In particular, my Government approves the various activities undertaken by the United Nations Space Application Programme and the progress made within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, or UN SPIDER.

The substantive discussion on space debris mitigation and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities also warrants due attention by the international community and my Government supports for continuing dialogue in these areas.

From a legal perspective, my delegation regards space law as the foundation upon which space activities and related international cooperation are built. The evolution of space activities and the proliferation of national space-related legislation mandate it that the Legal Subcommittee of the COPUOS continued to play a vital role in addressing the legal issues arising from the changing space environment.

My delegation commends the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, or UNOOSA, for its efforts to promote information-sharing, capacity-building and training and education with a view to improving the legal framework of international cooperation on space activities.

As a party to the Outer Space Treaty, Liability Convention, Rescue Agreement and the Registration Convention, Korea actively supports efforts to promote the understanding, acceptance and implementation of the international space law agreements. My delegation notes that the number of States having ratified or signed the various treaties, has increased in the past year and welcomes the growing consensus concerning the principles governing the peaceful activities of States in outer space as a momentum towards universalization continues to build.

Mr. Chairman, taking this opportunity, I want to share with you some of the recent developments and efforts that the Korean Government has undertaken in relation to the work of COPUOS.

Korea is preparing to launch the Korea Space Launch Vehicle 1, or KSLV-1, from the Naro Space Centre in Goheung, located on the southern coast of the Korean Peninsula. The launch will be conducted in strict conformity with all relevant international

obligations and norms. In addition to testing the design of the KSLV-1's second stage rocket, the mission's major objective is to launch the domestically-produced Science and Technology Satellite-2, or STSAT-2, into low-Earth orbit. The satellite's payload will monitor the Earth's atmosphere, and we expect that the data acquired through STSAT-2 will substantially help us research and address climate change and global warming.

In addition, Korea's first geosynchronous satellite, the Communication, Ocean and Meteorological Satellite, or COMS, is scheduled for launch in late June of this year. It will carry a payload with communication, oceanography and meteorological capabilities and is intended to monitor the weather of the East Asia region.

It goes without saying that these two events are of great importance to Korea's domestic space programme. Much of our success and progress made in this area is due to strong partnerships with major space-faring nations, including the United States, Russia and European states.

In keeping with the great importance my Government attaches to regional and international partnerships, Korea plans on becoming a full member of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, an international collaborative organization created to provide satellite images in a timely manner to those affected by natural or man-made disasters anywhere in the world to identify the magnitude of damage and facilitate recovery efforts. We believe that this will enable us both to increase the humanitarian use of space technology and to refine our international collaborative efforts.

Korea is also planning to start a cost-free educational programme in order to share its experience in space activities with developing countries. The programme will cover the scientific and legal aspects of outer space activities. It is our hope that this programme will assist countries without indigenous space programmes in learning more about data processing, satellite networks, space science, remote sensing and space law. Beginning in August, the Seychelles will become the first beneficiary country of this program.

My Government believes that cooperation at the regional level is important in promoting peaceful uses of outer space. In this regard, Korea plans to continue its participation in the Sentinel-Asia Programme and the Satellite Technology for the Asia-

Pacific Region Program, both of which are Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum initiatives.

In the context of Korea's international cooperative efforts, I would like to briefly mention that the Sixtieth International Astronautical Congress, or IAC, held in Daejeon, Korea last October under the theme "Space for Sustainable Peace and Progress" was a great success. With over 4,000 participants from 72 countries, it was one of the largest congresses yet. We place great emphasis on student space education with a view to further contributing to sustainable progress in this field. The Korea Aerospace Research Institute, for instance, is sponsoring 10 students to take part in the Sixty-First IAC to be held in Prague this fall.

Mr. Chairman, in my capacity as Chair of the Asian Group, I have the honour to inform you that the Asian Group Member States have reached consensus on the candidature of Mr. Yasushi Horikawa of Japan as Chairman of the COPUOS for the 2012–2013 term. As a renowned expert in his field, we are sure that Mr. Horikawa will draw upon many years of experience and make a valuable and lasting contribution to the work of the Committee. Asia Group Member States offer their unreserved recommendation in support of his candidature.

In concluding, I wish to reiterate my delegation's support for the work of the Committee. We look forward to working with you in the coming years to realize our common objectives for the peaceful uses of outer space.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Romania, Dr. Marius-Ioan Piso.

Mr. M.-I. PISO (Romania): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Cosmonaut Prunariu, let me once again congratulate you for the election in the main office of the Committee and, taking into account your long-term experience and successful achievements, we are confident in the accomplishment of the objectives of this Committee under your leadership and we will provide to you all the necessary support for the whole duration of your mandate.

Let me also extend the congratulations to the newly-elected officers, Nomfuneko Majaja from South

Africa, and Ambassador Raimundo González from Chile, as First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair Rapporteur respectively, for the next period.

I would like to express on behalf of the delegation of Romania our appreciation to Ambassador Ciro Arévalo Yepes for the remarkable service in the main Chair of the Committee and please accept, dear Ciro, our best wishes for further success in your distinguished activities.

We are extending also the congratulations for the work of the former Vice-Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman Rapporteur respectively, Suvit Vibulresth from Thailand and Filipe Duarte Santos from Portugal.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, I would like to mention that the first decade of the new millennium is bringing advance of space activities, together with the globalization and the clear definition of the space activities and their relation with other activities of the humankind.

I just want to mention three main sectors, space applications and commercial space activities, which include a significant private component as far as telecoms, Earth observation and navigation, even for space transportation. Those activities generate mainly their exo-societal(?) benefits.

The second one is exploration, robotic and human, producing science and technology and advancing the knowledge and power of the humankind.

The third one is security and planetary defence. Space capabilities might be unique in protecting our civilization against the terrestrial and external threats, as disasters, global changes and dangerous near-Earth objects. This _____(?) brought the global character and the wide multidisciplinary aspect of space activities clearly provide the possibility for most of the States and industries to become space actors.

At the same time, the globalization of the industrial market but also the possible global effects of natural threats put the States in the position of users and beneficiaries of reserves.

Continuing with this view, this really provides the basis for both wider international and industrial cooperation and also for a longer term sustainability of specific space activities.

It is to note that the space sector is still supported in proportion of more than 90 per cent by public funding and governed in the majority by public actors. Given the long-term character of space projects and programmes, the need of global coordination is continuously increasing.

Mr. Chairman, Romania is continuing to support its space development at the national level and together with the international community. As an ESA Cooperating State and a European Union member State, Romania is participating to the common European space research and development activities but is also keeping and developing its own national space programme. I would like to note, Mr. Chairman, that since 2009, Romania is in the process to fully accessing the ESA Convention.

The Romanian Space Programme further developed under the authority of the Romanian Space Agency and involving more than 100 organizations, is running presently a number of 32 projects and they involve several hundreds of full-time equivalent professionals.

I would like to mention contributions to international space exploration projects and missions. Some missions in nano-satellite technology, particularly for systems information flying and the development of integrated space applications, as tele-medicine, environmental monitoring, floods and water management, location-based services and also contributions to the European GMES and Galileo programmes.

One of the main components of the National Space Policy is defined by investment in the training of younger professionals. And I would like to mention that a Masters in Space Technology has been opened since October 2009 in Bucharest and the two-years multidisciplinary courses are converging to specializations for onboard systems, micro-satellites and space data processing, in particular radar technology.

I would also try to remind that the Romanian students have already several years of experience in developing nano-satellites and some new students there were involved in ESA student missions for Earth observation satellites and to develop a Moon Orbiter.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the good quality of the agenda of this first session you are leading and I would like to recall some of the present contributions of my country to their accomplishment of the objectives of COPUOS.

The significant experience gained by Romania at the Aerial(?) Space Technology for Disaster Management allowed the establishment of a Regional Support Office for SPIDER during the second semester of 2009 and by agreement with the Office for Outer Space Affairs and with the support of the Romanian Space Agency. And the activities of the Romanian Regional Support Office for SPIDER were already defined as components of specific projects and infrastructure capabilities of the Romanian Space Agency and collaborating institutions. Agreements were concluded with local data processing operators and higher education organizations. Also specific SPIDER issues were included as applications and examples in ESA Earth observation projects and in European Union GMES projects as ROKEO and SAFER.

We are also considering the major relevance of the issue of near-Earth objects and the substantial efforts pursued by major space agencies for the assessment, prevention and active protection against possible future events.

I would also like to mention that the Romanian professionals are currently involved some technical issues of the neo-detection and mitigation and I would like to note that Romania, via the Romanian Space Agency, will co-organize the International Academy of Astronautics Second Planetary Defence Conference during May 2011.

I will also note the relevant extension of space applications of the Space Application Sector in Romania. Satellite information are integrated with other spatial and ground data generating relevant applications for every culture, urban planning, natural resources management and others. A geographic portal using satellite imagery has been developed for the national territory and an advanced data processing technology as knowledge-based image mining, for assistant scatterers infra-feromitory(?) and knowledge management were further developed.

Also we can mention since the last session of COPUOS the organization of some workshops and conferences, as innovative data mining techniques in support of GEOS(?) and a summer school in cooperation with the organizations, professionals from Europe, the United States and Japan. Also courses in radar remote sensing, organized with the support of the European Space Agency and the German Space Agency.

I would also like to note in the frame of the international cooperation agenda point that the ratification of the European Treaty during December 2009 should become a milestone for space activities due to the provisions regarding the establishment of a European Space Programme and that my country is actively contributing to this process. Issues under consideration include satellite navigation, Earth observation applications for environment and security, space situational awareness, climate change and space exploration, most of them in concordance with the present and future objectives of the Committee agenda.

I would also like to recall that Romania is chairing and subsequently hosting the European Parliamentary Space Conference for 2010 and that the twelfth session started with a thematic workshop in Bucharest on 17 May 2010 with the participation of high-level representatives from more than 20 countries in organization, not only from Europe. And the Plenary Conference to be held in Bucharest during 25 and 26 October 2010 will have the focus on space benefits for society, in particular for security issues and it will be accompanied by an international space exhibition.

Mr. Chairman, I can assure you that Romania will continue to develop constantly its own space programme and my delegation will ask you for taking the floor during the specific items of the agenda we might be able to be concerned.

And before ending the statement, this is just out of the statement, I want to reiterate an invitation on behalf of the delegation of Romania to attend a reception in the Mozart Room at 6.30 p.m. this evening.

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

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Romania, the President of the Romanian Space Agency, Dr. Marius-Ioan Piso for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Germany, Mr. Thomas Muetzelburg.

Mr. T. MUETZELBURG (Germany): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. Let me also start by congratulating you on behalf of the German delegation, Mr. Chairman, for your election as the new Chairman of COPUOS. We are convinced that, thanks to your proven experience, the fifty-third

session will be a productive one and I would like to assure you of our full support in the exercise of your functions.

At the same time, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ambassador Arévalo Yepes for the effective manner in which he has guided our work over the last years.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to Ms. Othman and her team of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the good work over the past year and in preparation of this session.

Mr. Chairman, space technologies play a vital role in our daily lives. All countries without exception are highly dependent on their proper performance. Therefore, Germany would like to recall and underline the importance of Article 1 of the Outer Space Treaty. The key principle of Article 1 ensures the free exploration and use of outer space for all nations. This includes the right to uninterrupted operation of the global telecommunication network which relies on the seamless interconnection of terrestrial and satellite networks and systems as well as frequencies. No country should be allowed to call the right to free access to Outer Space, to which most delegations attach the utmost importance, into question through its actions. This important issue should definitely remain on our agenda.

And, Mr. Chairman, there are other kinds of manmade risks liable to jeopardize a secure and sustainable environment for space activities. Of particular concern is the increase of space debris. In this context, we would like to particularly thank the former Chairman of COPUOS, Mr. Brachet, for the initiative on the Long Term Sustainability of Space Activities. We are also pleased to see this item included in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and are looking forward to achieving early results.

Let me shortly touch upon the issue of on-orbit-servicing as one way to maintain space objects and to avoid space debris. Germany has been actively developing technologies to make the space environment more sustainable in its National Space Programme, in particular space robotics which help to avoid space debris in two ways. On the one hand, on-orbit servicing can dramatically extend the useful lifetime of active satellites. On the other hand, we can actively manage the risks posed by satellites out of service. We currently think about combining these technologies in a single demonstration mission, the

DEOS, Deutsche Orbital Orbiting Mission, to understand how one could detect, identify and approach satellites.

Mr. Chairman, we welcome the paper entitled "Towards a UN space policy", presented by Ambassador Arévalo at the last COPUOS. Germany supports the detailed examination of its suggestions. COPUOS should play a leading role in coordinating space-related issues in the UN system.

To increase the efficiency of the work of COPUOS, we suggest the consideration of a structural re-organisation of the Subcommittees and the streamlining of agendas in order to make room to address the current and coming challenges that need our urgent attention, such as urbanization and climate change.

Climate change and its effects are a challenge which can only be dealt with globally. The increasing number of natural disasters demonstrates the special importance of the UN SPIDER programme. We warmly welcome the support of Turkey that provides two experts for the SPIDER office and thus contributes to the continuation of the SPIDER programme on a sustainable basis, as Germany continues to do. We encourage all States to contribute as well to the long-term viability of UN-SPIDER through voluntary contributions and we strongly support the Office for Outer Space Affairs' efforts to increase the number of regular SPIDER staff.

Mr. Chairman, there are a good number of examples for successful international cooperation, such as the ISS infrastructure. Now that the ISS is nearly complete, we have to make full use of this long-term investment. We would, therefore, welcome a decision by all partners regarding a life time extension of the ISS.

A promising example for bilateral cooperation is MERLIN. France and Germany will jointly build an Earth observation satellite to monitor methane gas, which is the second most abundant greenhouse gas with a dangerous greenhouse gas warming potential, in fact, 25 times larger than carbon dioxide. The satellite will be launched in 2014 and be in service for three years.

Mr. Chairman, for Germany, the coordination within the European Union on space-related activities constitutes a key point of reference. From our perspective, the completion and operation of Galileo and GMES remain of highest importance. I would also like to underline the importance of the work being

done on the European Union Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. This Code of Conduct, which is subject to further consultations, will be presented soon and opened for signature by all States on a voluntary basis. We are confident that the Code will strengthen the safety, security and predictability of all activities in Outer Space.

Mr. Chairman, in parallel to our COPUOS session, the International Air and Space ILA show currently takes place in Berlin. We are celebrating 100 years of ILA and look forward to this year's ILA Space Day. In addition, the COSPAR Conference, the biggest interdisciplinary scientific convention on space research, will be held next month in Bremen with a round table discussion on "space and global challenges".

Within a few days of today, on June 21st, the launch of TanDEM-X will take place. This satellite opens a new era in space-borne radar remote sensing in addition to TerraSAR-X, a second, almost identical satellite. Both will fly in a closely controlled formation. The primary mission objective is the generation of a consistent global digital elevation model.

Mr. Chairman, I have only been able to address a few aspects of our work. My delegation will again ask for the floor under various items on our agenda. I would also like to announce that we will make a presentation under agenda item 11, space and society, entitled "Volcanic ash layers over Europe – Airborne Observations with the DLR-Falcon Research Aircraft in Spring 2010".

Thank you for your attention, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Germany for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of India, Mr. Shivakumar.

Mr. S. K. SHIVAKUMAR (India): Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation expresses its hearty congratulations to you on being elected as the new Chairman of the United Nations COPUOS. We are confident that your aptitude and leadership will contribute significantly to progress all agenda items identified for this fifty-third session.

The delegation also places on record its wishes to Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa and Mr. Raimundo González Aninat of Chile on being

elected as Vice, First-Vice Chair and Second Vice-Chair respectively for the period 2010-2011.

At this moment, the Indian delegation fondly recalls the contribution of Ambassador Ciro Arévalo Yepes in successfully chairing the previous two sessions.

The efforts of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in all activities of the United Nations COPUOS are also highly appreciated.

Mr. Chairman, while acknowledging the significant achievements of various member nations in space during the last one year, the Indian delegation would like to brief the Committee on the significant achievements made by India in the field of space since the last session in June 2009.

In 15 successful flights, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV, named PSLV-C14, placed OCEANSAT-2 and other six international nano-satellites in orbit on 23 September 2009. OCEANSAT-2, the successor of 11-year old operational OCEANSAT-1 carries oceanological(?) monitors, scatterometers and _____(?) sounders. Noting the increased global demand for the data from scatterometers, India has agreed to share the data with international space agencies for their operational applications.

Mr. Chairman, the Indian delegation is proud to report that India's CHANDRAYAAN-1 was instrumental in conclusively establishing the presence of water and hydroxide molecules on the lunar surface.

ISRO has also performed a unique joint experiment, an ice study experiment involving ISRO's CHANDRAYAAN-1 and NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, LRO, Spacecraft on 21 August 2009 for obtaining additional information on the possibility of the existence of ice in a permanently shadowed crater near the North Pole of the Moon.

Additionally, the analysis of data obtained by the Miniature Synthetic Aperture Radar, MINISAR, onboard CHANDRAYAAN-1 spacecraft has provided evidence for the presence of ice deposits near the Moon's North Pole. The longest annular solar eclipse of the millennium which occurred on 15 January 2010 was studied through successful launch 11 Indian sounding rockets during a short period of two days.

On 15 April 2010, India entered the flight testing of the indigenous cryo engine and the

geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle, GSLV-D3, but was not successful.

Mr. Chairman, in the coming months, ISRO aims to augment India's constellation of remote sensing and communications satellites. Currently is getting ready for launching CARTOSAT-2B, YOUTHSAT(?)2, Radar Imaging Satellite, RSAT-1, for natural resources management. And ISRO's joint mission MEGATROPICS, for tropical aquatic(?) studies and several for studying the ocean surface.

Additionally, YOUTHSAT, a small satellite, built with the participation of the Moscow State University, EXSAT, built with the participation of NTU of Singapore, S5(?) and LNS-6 satellites of Canada and ALSAT-2 from Algeria are scheduled to be launched as co-passengers in these flights. GSAT-5P, GSAT-12, GSAT-8 are the communications satellites to be launched in the near future.

India has achieved significant progress in realizing GSLV-Mark III, a heavy lifting launch vehicle capable of launching four ton(?) plus communication satellite into geostationary transfer orbit.

Mr. Chairman, the emphasis of the Indian Space Programme has always been on integrating the advances in space technology and applications with the National Development Goals, particularly in vital service areas such as telecommunications, television broadcasting, meteorology, disaster warning as well as natural resources survey and management.

In recognition of its contribution to improve sustainable livelihoods amongst the rural poor, Antrix of ISRO have been conferred with the Globe Sustainability Research Award 2010 met at the Globe Forum, Stockholm, Sweden. This recognition is for demonstrating the use of space technology and information technology solutions to effectively reach out to grassroots levels through the Sujala Watershed Development Programme in the State of Karnataka in India. A presentation of the Sujala Watershed Development Programme was made to this august forum in the fifty-first session of the United Nations COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, India places considerable importance on international cooperation in space activities, mainly in taking up new scientific and technological challenges, defining international frameworks for the exploitation and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes. Recently, it has entered

into agreements with Argentina, the Republic of Korea and Saudi Arabia for the peaceful uses of outer space.

India successfully organized the Eighth IAA International Conference on Low-Cost Planetary Missions, LCPM-8, at Goa, India, during 31 August to 4 September 2009 with participation of scientists from various international space agencies.

During 9 to 12 March 2010, India has successfully organized 28 meetings of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Meeting wherein 86 delegates from 10 space agencies deliberated on the important topic in the _____(?) global space assets and securities.

Mr. Chairman, India continues to provide expertise and services for helping developing countries in the application of space technology to capacity-building. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for the Asia and Pacific region affiliated to the United Nations and operating from India has so far benefited 894 scholars from 31 countries from the Asia-Pacific region and 27 scholars from some 17 countries outside the Asia-Pacific region. India would like to request more participation from the member countries.

Mr. Chairman, the Indian Space Programme is entering into a space exploration phase mainly to explore the Sun inner solar system and build such capabilities for exploring the outer solar system. ALCAR-1(?), a project to study the solar climasphere(?) has been taken up by ISRO, along with leading science laboratories of India.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, the Indian delegation would like to greatly acknowledge and fully support the United Nations COPUOS in all its endeavours to increase awareness of space and its benefits and to maintain outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of India for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is Mr. Mustafa Din Subari from Malaysia.

Mr. M. D. SUBARI (Malaysia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to first express our congratulations to you as the new Chairman of the fifty-third session of

COPUOS, together with your Vice-Chairs, representatives from South Africa and Chile. We are confident that under your able leadership, your team as well as the full assistance from the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Secretariat, led by Dr. Mazlan Othman, this meeting will be successful.

We would also like to thank and record our appreciation on the remarkable contributions from the outgoing Chair, Mr. Ciro Arévalo Yepes from Colombia, and the two Vice-Chairs, Mr. Suvit Vibulsresth from Thailand and Mr. Filipe Duarte Santos from Portugal.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report in this meeting progresses in space-related activities in my country that we have achieved since the last United Nations COPUOS meeting in June last year.

Through its Commission entity, MEASAT Satellite Systems Private Limited has launched its latest communication satellite, MEASAT-3A on its ZENITH-3 SLV launcher from Baikonaur Cosmodrome on 21 June 2009. MEASAT-3A is now operating in geosynchronous orbit at 91 and 5 degrees east longitude, providing seven(?) communication services from Asia, the Middle East and Africa, and _____(?) direct-to-home television broadcasting to Malaysia and Indonesia.

Malaysia's second Earth observation satellite, RAZAKSAT, was successfully launched on 14 July 2009 into the intended near-equatorial orbit. That communication was established within its first orbit and following that early operational key activities were carried out. I would like to thank our collaborator, the Government of South Korea, through its NC(?), the _____(?) assistant.

There are, however, some technical issues on the emerging activities. Hence, RAZAKSAT is currently declared as an R&D satellite and further studies have been carried out to resolve these glitches.

Issues aside, RAZAKSAT has certainly given us significant knowledge and experiences in satellite operations.

The building of our own assembly, integration and testing facility at the Malaysian Space Centre and the Data Administration Centre in Banting, Selangor, to a _____(?) development to be carried out in the country is progressing well. The new facilities are considered as an extension to the existing ground receiving and control station at the Centre and is

expected to be fully completed and operational before the middle of 2011.

We have completed the expansions of the Marine Base Differential GPS along the Peninsular Malaysia Coastline. A system called SISPOSAT(?) is operated by the Marine Department of Malaysia. The service along the coastline of East Malaysia, which is Sabah and Sarawak, is going to be carried out in the next Malaysian Development Programmes 2011 until 2015.

The Malaysian RTK Network, or MYRTKNET, a network of the Virtual Reference System Technology for the GPS Reference Station Networks consists of 50 Reference Station in Peninsular Malaysia and 28 Reference Stations in Sabah and Sarawak also established. This Network, operated by the Department of Surveying and Mapping in Malaysia and surveys to gain centimetre level positioning. Details of specifications of the MYRTKNET will be deliberated in our intervention on agenda item 15.

Since the First Angkasawan in 2007, works on micro-gravity sciences has been continuing. On 23 and 24 November last year, a National Seminar on Micro-Gravity was organized in the University of Malaysia Sabah. This Seminar discussed the result of the micro-gravity experiments conducted in the First Angkasawan programme as well as opening up of opportunities to local scientists to participate in future experiments conducted through international collaborations.

The Seminar was participated by more than 120 local participants and several experts from Russia and Japan.

Educating the nation on the strategic importance of space has been and will continue to become our main agenda. The National Planetarium at Kuala Lumpur continues to champion this effort. A new interactive and full dome digital printer and system, FDS, was recently installed which enhanced the capability to screen a wider selection of space-related movies in a more dynamic and a more _____(?) presentation. With this FDS installed, we expected to get more than 150,000 visitors a year to the National Planetarium.

Malaysia actively participated in the global celebrations of the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. Throughout the year, many activities, many on space education and public awareness, were organized involving all walks of life. Other programmes include

a short topography competition and exhibition for amateur and professional astronomers. The compilations of an active folklore on astronomy and the universe in which a book of compiled stories was published and some other educational activities.

Brochures produced, also commemorative gold plated coins and IYA 2009.

As an important effort to continue our education and awareness activities on space science, a special foundation was established in August 2009. The Angkasawan Malaysia or Malaysian Astronaut Foundation will be the main agency under the Ministry of Science Technology Innovation to carry out these activities through collaborations with other government agencies as well as private sectors.

Mr. Chairman, Malaysia believes in the strategic importance of international collaboration in all space ventures. With Japan, through the Japanese Aerospace and Exploration Agency, or JAXA, we have several programmes. The Protein Crystallization Programme onboard the International Space Station where several local protein crystals are grown under the micro-gravity environment onboard the Japanese module KIBO.

Since the past three years, Malaysia has participated in the Parabolic Flight Programme organized by JAXA in sending some of the experiments by university students. Several teams of local university students has participated in this programme which exposes the rich opportunities to micro-gravity sciences.

The other collaborations with JAXA in education and awareness programmes is through the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF. Malaysia has participated in its organized programmes ever since.

Additionally, in support of the International Heliophysical Year campaign in 2007, Malaysia is currently hosting a _____(?) instrument which is used to measure variations of _____(?) film at the Langkawi(?) Observatory in the northern part of Malaysia.

There is certainly a launch project with the Russian Government to simulate travel to Mars, Mars-500. It is truly fascinating and important to enable man's space explorations to the Red Planet. Malaysia is proud to be a small party to this project through our sensitive(?) experiments. We certainly hope that the real venture to Mars will become a reality in the future.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, my delegation would like to reiterate our commitment to the peaceful uses of outer space and will continue our support to this cause in ensuring space is to become a common heritage of mankind.

I thank you for this opportunity to address this meeting, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Malaysia for his statement.

I also wanted to point out the fact that this fall, in October, Malaysia will host the Planetary Congress of the Association of Space Explorers. It is a good opportunity to raise the awareness of the population and to stimulate the education of the young people with respect to space activities.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Sudan, Mr. Osama Abdelwahab Mohamed Rais.

Mr. O.A.M. RAIS (Sudan) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, distinguished participants, may you allow me, Mr. Chairman, to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau. We view with appreciation the effort by this Committee and the positive trends taken by this Committee which leads to sustainable development and the welfare of mankind.

Sudan is an example of a vast country with different climates, with different weather conditions, with different features in term of the landscape and it is also an example of a country that is subject to disasters. Space is an opportunity for us to explore our rich resources and to manage natural catastrophes and achieve sustainable development for the welfare and security of its people.

Sudan appreciates the efforts of the United Nations which made us benefit from space technology in the Sudan and we benefited also from the efforts designed for the African continent.

We started activities in space at the beginning of the 1970s. We established the Communication Project which is the Centre on Remote Sensing. Thereafter, we witnessed a number of activities in the field of space and the use of remote sensing in agriculture, irrigation, natural disaster mitigation and health.

Finally, in this year, 2010, we established the Space Technology and Research Centre which formulates a national programme and coordinates that programme. The Sudan shares with many developing countries the concern about the inability to use space technology for a number of reasons which stand as hindrances to us, namely the digital gap and the knowledge gap, as well as the high cost and the lack of resources for very costly programmes. We look forward to efforts and initiatives in order to close those gaps and overcome these problems and hindrances.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, we call for technical assistance and support from the Committee and the State members in order to formulate policies and the national laws with regard to space. We thank the United Nations and its affiliate organizations for their efforts, especially the Office for Outer Space Affairs and especially Ms. Mazlan Othman.

Mr. Chairman, the Sudan supports the membership of Tunisia in the Committee because Tunisia has been very active in that Committee and will positively contribute to its efforts. We call for regional cooperation.

And finally, Mr. Chairman, we view with optimism the effort to build a society that enjoys peace and the use of space for the benefit of mankind.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Sudan for his statement.

Now we have a statement made by an observer member, by the representative of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, APSCO, Mr. Wei Zhang. The Secretary-General has the floor.

Mr. W. ZHANG (Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. First of all, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to you, from Romania, for the elected of the new Chairman of COPUOS and also Madam Majaja from South Africa as First Vice-Chairman, and Ambassador Raimundo González from Chile as Second Vice-Chairman. I fully believe that, through your efforts and experience of leadership, you and your colleagues will make great contributions to this Committee.

Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, it is my pleasure to make a statement on behalf of APSCO as a brand new

Organization and a permanent observer of this Committee. APSCO was established in 2007 for the purpose of promoting regional space cooperation in the Asia and Pacific region. Since it was formally operative from the end of 2008, the current seven member States of Bangladesh, China, Iran, Angola, Pakistan, Peru and Thailand and the two Signatory States of Indonesia and Turkey has been working closely on space cooperation.

Here I would like to brief all delegates of this Committee on the substantial progress we have made in the past year.

The Host Country Agreement was signed between APSCO and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China in July 2009. With some intensive renovation work, APSCO already moved into its new venue which was donated by the Chinese Government. The Headquarters is situated on the South West Fourth Ring Road in Beijing and also the building is about 5,000 square metres.

All member States have assigned their representative to work in APSCO as international staff and a good team of local supporting staff has also been recruited. With the opening of the office and the Second Council Meeting held in December 2009, APSCO has been focusing on the development of its six projects that has been approved by the Second Council Meeting.

This project, in addition to long-term _____(?) and education programmes covers the domain of spatial _____(?), satellite technology, atmospheric research, navigation duplication(?) and joint space observation. So far, we have conducted a feasibility study on all projects and experts from member States are finalizing the technical and economic specifications prior ____ (?) to their submission to the Council Meeting.

In addition to all these efforts, APSCO successfully held the First Annual Symposium on the them of "Space Technology and International Cooperation in Thailand". The two-week training course on space remote sensing and its application in China and supported the Workshop on Space Law held by the United Nations in Iran.

APSCO also took part in the activities organized by UNESCAP(?) and other organizations.

I would like to express my appreciation to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for their guidance and support on these events.

According to the decisions of the Second Council Meeting in 2010, the _____(?) calls on global navigation satellite systems and its application(?) is held in Beijing from 4 to 21 June, which is jointly supported by MIT of China and organized by Peking University.

The two-year Master Programme on Space Technology Applications is Master 2010 has already started and calling for the students, which is jointly supported by APSCO and a Chinese scholarship.

The Second International Symposium on Food Security and the Monitoring of Agriculture through Satellite Technology will be held in Pakistan in September.

APSCO has also started the Long-Term Development Plan and the Five-Year Project Plan.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, since it was established in 1959 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, this Committee has become the primary international venue for debate and action over the peaceful uses of outer space and greatly contributed to the promotion of international cooperation in this field.

As an intergovernmental organization, based on the Convention, APSCO is established to contribute to this enterprise pursuant and its own objectives in promoting space cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. I believe that the guidance and support from the United Nations will effectively improve the capability of the regional organizations and the active experience from the regional organizations will also strongly contribute to the objectives and functions of the United Nations worldwide.

As a permanent observer, we also wish to experience the expertise of the Committee and would warmly welcome any suggestions or advice by the Committee and its members. It is our sincere hope that all countries in this region can join our efforts through cooperation. Space is an endeavour that cannot be done(?) by any single nation in the future but together we can do better.

Finally, I would like to extend my invitation to all delegates and participants to our APSCO reception on Friday evening at the VIC Restaurant Mozart Room.

Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of APSCO for his statement.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak at the general exchange of views at this afternoon's meeting?

Yes, the distinguished representative of CRTEAN. Please, you have the floor.

Mr. N. FEKIH (Centre Régional de Télédétection des Etats de l'Afrique du Nord) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Chairman, on behalf of the North African Remote Sensing Centre, I would like to congratulate you upon being elected to Chair of this Committee and I would like to extend to you and to all your colleagues our best wishes for the success of our work.

I would like to indeed pay tribute as well to the work of your predecessor and indeed pay tribute to both his work as well as the significant contributions made to the work of our Committee.

I would like to express our support on the part of our Centre for the candidature of Tunisia here in this Committee, Tunisia and its application for full membership. We would like to pay tribute for all it has done in furthering space applications and this for a sustainable activity in the field of outer space. Since 1990, Tunisia is hosting the Headquarters of our Centre and Tunisia affords us continuous support which indeed a prerequisite for the work done by our Centre towards furthering its goals, that is, to make peaceful use of space technologies for the benefit of our member States and for to ensure sustainable development of our States.

The Centre for North Africa that I am speaking on behalf of would also like to say that we appreciate the support of Tunisia as a full member State of COPUOS.

Since we were established, our Centre has worked to promote the dissemination of outer space culture. We have organized symposia in various fields. We also have research projects ongoing on the environment, desertification, food security, *inter alia*. Our Centre is also developing its relations with various other organizations working in the same field.

In concluding, I would like to indeed wish you the best in the work accomplished by you as Chair of our Committee.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you the distinguished delegate of CRTEAN.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak?

The delegation of Poland.

Mr. P. WOLANSKI (Poland): Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to congratulate you and both Vice-Chairmen, Nomfuneko Majaja and Ambassador Raimundo González, with their election to this position. I deeply believe that your experience, knowledge and leadership will contribute to the success of this session. I would like to ensure you on the full support of the Polish delegation.

Polish space activity is partially supported by the Ministry of Economy in the Framework ESA PAX Agreement and by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. We hope that our activity will soon bring us to the full membership of ESA.

During the last year, the main area of Polish space policy was focused on the national space research activities and international cooperation. In Poland, the main activities in the area of space research were conducted by the Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences which actively participates a mission such as Rosetta, Herschel, Coronas-Photon and others.

Scientists and engineers from the Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Centre and the Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences are engaging in building with the participation of Austria and Canada, the BRITA(?) astronomical satellite devoted to study the stars. The Soft X-Ray Spectrometer, SPHINX, on the Coronas-Photon Russian solar mission was working extremely well. SPHINX measured solar spectra in high resolution 10 times below the previously deducted thresholds.

Also last year, Poland became a full member of EUMETSAT that our Institute of Meteorology and Water Management received satellite picture in tracking for more than 40 years from basically all meteorological satellites.

We are also actively engaged in remote sensing. Also GPS, GNES and other satellites are used in Poland for geodesy and scientific programmes.

Last year we completed construction of the 100 Reference Stations for the European Reference Network.

Realization of the Multi-Functional System for Precise Satellite Positioning in Poland by the Main Land Surveyor and Cartography Office has more than 1,600 users.

Several projects in the field were conducted by Krakow University of Science and Technology, Warsaw University of Technology and Institute of Geodesy and Cartography University of Missouri(?) Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

In SARI(?) TPSAT, the Centre for Telecommunications provide worldwide telecommunication services using global and regional telecommunication satellites such as INTERSPUTNIK, INTERSAT, INMARSAT and EUMELSAT(?) and provides continuous connection of Polish operators with all places in the world, land, sea and air.

Last year, we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the landing on the Moon. We also organized a special session on the role of some on climate change. The Sixth(?) International Conference on Space Propulsion and a Special Workshop on Polish Space Policy with participation of ESA representatives.

This meeting, as well as the other activities, are aiming to clearly define our direction of space research and application as well as in education. The main goal of this and other events was to demonstrate the benefits of space technology and its application for the broad public.

Education on space is continuously widening in Poland. This includes the Special Education Programme for Basic and High School, special programmes on space education and Warsaw University of Technology and other universities.

ESA granted a special project for supporting educational activities for students at Warsaw University and Rozan(?) University of Technology.

In Warsaw University of Technology and Rozan(?) of Technology there were special few projects related to the small satellites. Students groups are also engaging in construction of a European SLO and Rexus(?) Bexus (?) here is a students project.

Other projects are PWSAT(?) nano-satellites is conducted by Warsaw University of Technology in

cooperation with the Dinya(?) Marine University. Thermosat(?) nano-satellites will demonstrate the technology of de-orbitation of satellites after their operational phase to decrease the amount of space debris on low-Earth orbit. The launch of these satellites is planned on the maiden flight of a new ESA rocket, VEGA, which is scheduled early next year.

Finally, I would like to mention the last man, United States astronaut, George Zamka, Commander of the SDS-140 Endeavour Space Shuttle mission visited Poland with four other United States astronaut from these missions. This goodwill visit last 10 days. During this time, the numerous meetings with the youngsters, students and the different organizations as well as the many public appearances were organized. The final event of this visit was the University Gliding Centre in _____(?) (*not clear*), named after Pavel(?) Gora(?), the first recipient of the _____(?) Medal in 1939 where many students from _____(?) and Warsaw participated and directly contacted United States astronauts.

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

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Professor Wolanski for your speech on behalf of Poland.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Kazakhstan.

Mr. R. SADUAKASSOV (Kazakhstan) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you very much Chairman. At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you upon your election to the Chair of this Committee and to wish you the best in discharging your mandate.

My delegation would like to also congratulate Ms. Nomfuneka Majaja as well as Mr. Raimundo González Aninat upon their election as Vice-Chair for COPUOS. And we would also like to express our thanks to the former Chairman, Mr. Arévalo Yepes and his Vice-Chair, Mr. Vibulsresth and Mr. Duarte Santos for their work over the past biennium.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has laid the foundations for peaceful uses and study of outer space of many member States including ours, Kazakhstan, and we, in our country, have a National Space Agency meant to do work in this field. This was set up by a Presidential initiative in 2007. In this Agency, they develop plans, projects and programmes for the development of outer space science and technology.

This year we have started implementing the Strategic Plan for the National Space Agency of our Republic for 2010-2014. In this Plan, we are focusing on priority points of this Space Agency' activity which involves the establishment of outer space systems, technologies and their use, the development of outer space and experimental activities in outer space, the development of land-based outer space infrastructure, including Baikonaur, the establishment of a standard-setting base for these activities and international cooperation in this field.

And in accordance with the Strategic Plan of the Space Agency of our nation, we have indeed concentrated on broadening the circle of our State partners, on training, specialized staff in outer space activities and implementing projects on using space technologies.

At present, we are pursuing our work establishing the outer space communications and broadcasting system called KAZSAT and the launch of our space vehicle, KAZSAT-2, is planned for December 2010. We are updating the guidance and control system for this satellite and we have enhanced the quality of the characteristics to improve the reliability of the operations of this satellite and we have indeed also done work and are continuing work to enhance operational reliability in launching KAZSAT-3.

We have also indeed done work on the monitoring of communications.

The French company, EADS-Astrium, has worked in close partnership with us on the spacecraft assembly and testing work that I have mentioned and we plan to organize a Design Office which will be employing specialized staff developing satellites for multiple purposes. We are going to be able to work on projects, not just for Kazakhstan, but also for other State upon their commissions. And also with our French partners, we are busy setting up an outer space system for a Kazakh remote sensing of the Earth including an orbital array of satellites with high- and medium-resolution with a land-based satellite control centre which is able to develop proper processing of outer space data and the transmission thereof.

At present, the Agency is doing work establishing the Kazakh High-Accuracy Satellite Navigation System on the basis of a regional differential system. And to enable use of the Russian Global Satellite Navigation System, GLONAS, in

2008, Kazakhstan and Russia signed an Intergovernmental Agreement to that end.

In Kazakhstan, we have set up the basic infrastructure for a national system for outer space monitoring and this with two of the largest collection and processing for such remote sensing centres to be found in all of Central Asia. These are to be found in Astana and Almaty in our country. And this applies our efforts on the technologies of monitoring the environment, the emergency situations, agricultural disaster areas, etc.

We attach a special importance to fundamental and applied research done in astrophysics, in the physics of near-Earth and outer space, of the Earth's atmosphere and ionosphere and space technologies as a whole. We have developed experiments that are to be done in outer space and these were performed as of 1991 by our Cosmonaut Aubakirov. His work was continued by another Cosmonaut by the name of Musabayev, during their flights on the Orbital Space Station Mir, as well as on the ISS.

On the territory of Kazakhstan, there is the largest Cosmodrome in the world, Baikonaur, and at present this is being rented by the Russian Federation. This Baikonaur Cosmodrome is a real launching platform for all classes of space rocket and the Presidents of Kazakhstan and of Russia have reached an agreement as to the further development of cooperation at this Baikonaur Centre. This agreement provides for the conduct of the updating of the infrastructure of the Cosmodrome, including due consideration to the ecological safety of outer space activities and the implementation of outer space projects.

This agreement of the leaders of our two States was confirmed in the Kazakh-Russian Agreement on the Development of Cooperation on the Effective Utilization of the Baikonaur Complex.

One of the main projects involved is the construction with our Russian partners of a Bi-Terrek(?) Rocket Facility in Baikonaur, this using the environmentally clean Ongara(?) rocket launcher intended for the launch from Baikonaur of poly-purpose spacecraft.

In concluding, Chairman, I would like to assure the Committee of the attachment of Kazakhstan to the peaceful uses of outer space for the good of all humankind and for the good of all nations.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you very much distinguished representative of Kazakhstan. I certainly wish you the best as well as my best wishes also go to Mr. Musabayev. Thank you.

(*Continued in English*) Are there any other delegations wishing to speak on the agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views?

I see none.

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

Now we propose to open the discussions on the ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, item 6.

Are there any delegations wishing to speak on this agenda item?

I see none.

Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (agenda item 7)

We open the item 7 of the agenda of this session.

Is there any delegation wishing to speak on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III?

I see none.

Now before adjourning the meeting of this session and before starting the reception given by Romania, one hour earlier, I give the floor to the Secretariat to make some comments.

Mr. N. HEDMAN (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Delegations recall that in the provisional agenda for this session under the agenda item on UNISPACE III, Implementation of UNISPACE III, there is a paragraph referring to the report of the Working Group of the Whole in Annex I to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee this year, document 958, and I am referring to paragraph 7 of that report by the Working Group of the Whole, Page 31, in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee report. It says

that the Working Group of the Whole requested the Secretariat to provide for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-third session a template for the preparation of its contribution to the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster for 2012 to 2013.

Delegations will recall that in the Working Group of the Whole during the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee earlier this year, the Working Group agreed to focus more attention in its future work to the contribution of the Committee to the work under the thematic clusters of the Commission on Sustainable Development and this is reflected in the report of the Working Group of the Whole.

Delegations will recall also that according to the thematic work under the Commission on Sustainable Development, the year 2012-2013 will focus on forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountains in, of course, the context of sustainable development.

The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/86, our resolution, attended the Commission on Sustainable Development this year, earlier in May this year, and was informed by the Secretariat that there were ongoing discussions within the Commission on Sustainable Development to make certain changes to the pattern of work of the Commission, bearing in mind that in 2012, there is the twentieth anniversary of their real Declaration which means that it will be the twentieth anniversary of the overall Agenda 21.

This means that the thematic cluster of work would be shifted so it is not 2012, it will be 2013-14 with the thematic areas I just read out and then it continues 2015-16, 2017-18.

The Secretariat can, therefore, not present a template at this session of the Committee. What the Secretariat will do is to follow up with the Commission on Sustainable Development Secretariat in New York, the Division on Sustainable Development, and see what was decided by the Commission at its meeting in May because we have not received any information or confirmation on what was decided.

However, whatever will be done in our preparatory work for 2011 because you will recall that what will happen is we will send out a Note Verbale later this year to request inputs, invite member States to provide inputs to the Secretariat for the report by COPUOS to the CSD.

Those inputs and a first draft will be then considered in the Working Group of the Whole during the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2011 and then it will be finalized by the full session of the Committee in 2011 and eventually the document will be processed in all languages and submitted to the Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development so that it can be considered by the Commission in 2012.

And now, as I have already outlined, we do not know whether there will be the thematic cluster of work as according to the plan or whether there will be a twentieth anniversary of the Agenda 21 and the real Declaration. So this is what the Secretariat needs to have confirmed.

I would like to bring delegations attention to paragraph 6 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole in this year's report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee where the Working Group of the Whole decided on the method of work, what would be the essence of contributions by member States and I will read it out, Mr. Chairman.

“The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Committee should contribute to the thematic clusters in which space technology and its applications played a particularly important role, pay attention to the cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission, identify areas where space-based systems could complement terrestrial systems in order to promote integrated solutions and include, as appropriate, and in addition to examples of regional and international cooperation, national success stories that might provide useful examples for the overall contribution of the Committee.”

And this method was used for the previous contribution and I then relate to a document that you should have before you at this session, it is document 944, “Contribution of COPUOS to the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the Cluster 2010-2011” and that document you all have before you and that document has been sent to the Commission on Sustainable Development and was made available to delegations in New York this May.

Mr. Chairman, I apologize. This is rather a complex material and if anyone would feel that it needs some more explanations but I wanted to bring this up already at this stage of this present session that the Secretariat is monitoring this and we will send out a Note Verbale after the summer and we will carefully explain all the steps that will need to be taken. And

then in February we come back in the Working Group of the Whole, we look at the product and the draft prepared and then to be finalized in the COPUOS session next year.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you to Mr. Hedman. I thank the Secretariat for these comments, very necessary to organize our work in the future.

I see that there are no delegations wishing to speak on our agenda items.

We will continue, therefore, our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, agenda item 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, and agenda item 7, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III, tomorrow morning.

I urge delegates wishing to make a statement to sign their name with the Secretariat.

Distinguished delegates, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for tomorrow morning.

We will reconvene promptly at 10.00 a.m. At that time, we will continue our consideration of the three agenda items I just already said.

Following the plenary, there will be two technical presentations by Canada on “Space Security Index 2010” and by the United States on “The United States Shared Space Situational Awareness Programme”.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

I now cordially invite you to attend the reception hosted by Romania in the Mozart Room of the VIC Restaurant, starting with 5.15 p.m., I mean in 20 minutes from now, just a lot of loose time and be more efficient even with a reception.

This meeting is adjourned until 10.00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

The meeting closed at 4.55 p.m.