

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

617<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Friday, 11 June 2010, 10 a.m.  
Vienna

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*Chairman:* Mr. Dumitru Dorin Prunariu (Romania)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.21 a.m.*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Good morning distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 617<sup>th</sup> meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

This morning we will continue our consideration of agenda item 5. There were some demands to speak under this agenda item after we concluded yesterday and as we are flexible and want as much as possible contributions, we re-open the agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, with statements requested for quite different member States.

We will continue and hopefully conclude under that item 7, but re-open as well the agenda item 6, Ways and Means for Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

We will begin our consideration of agenda item 8, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Seventh Session, agenda item 9, Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Ninth Session, and agenda item 10, Spin-Off Benefits of Space Technology: Review of Current Status.

Following the plenary, there will be two technical presentations by Ecuador on "Fifth Space Conference of the Americas: Regional Arrangements for Security and Human Development: Perspectives for the Future", and by Japan on "Japanese Contribution for Disaster Management Support".

Before we start, I would like to remind delegations of the following side meetings taking place today.

At 11.00 a.m. in Room E0951, there will be a briefing by IAF for Heads of National Space Agencies and African Missions on the preparation of activities for IAC 2011.

At 2.30 p.m. in Room M01, there will be a briefing on the planning for the UN/IAF Workshop in Prague. All delegations are invited to attend.

At the end of this morning's session at 1.00 p.m., there will be a reception hosted by Japan at the premises of the Permanent Mission of Japan, five minutes walking from the UN Centre. Please be prepared to show your VIC pass at the entrance at the Japanese Mission. Invitations for this event have been placed in your pigeonholes.

**General exchange of views (agenda item 5)**

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

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Italy, the President of the Italian Space Agency, Mr. Enrico Saggese.

**Mr. E. SAGGESE (Italy):** Thank you Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is really an honour for me to attend this plenary meeting here in which the countries involved in space activities exchange their views and use their best efforts to cooperate and coordinate directions and strategies in the conviction that space and related issues constitute to one of the solutions for the global problems and common challenges.

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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.



Italy believes that COPUOS could play an important role in the space international community, not only to exchange views and information, already very important, but to promote and lead the international cooperation to prevent the use of weapons in outer space and to maintain peace and security for the benefit of the new generations and the humankind.

The Italian Space Agency, in its mission, also concurs in this direction, convinced that space is a chain of developments in which that knowledge produces high technology, the high technology produces economic and social development and development produces welfare and security. In this scenario, I am very conscious of my personal role and of the importance of producing a real knowledge, \_\_\_\_\_(?) culture and good space policy.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Italian Space Agency in these days is working on the new National Space Plan for the future 10 years and my personal involvement in this work wishes to guarantee the international awareness to contribute in the production of sustainable development and knowledge.

Our intention is to elaborate a long-term strategy towards specific policies for specific problems and specific action and capabilities for global problems and coordinated policies.

Six are the main guidelines which lead our plan.

First, space systems as a tool of knowledge for the environment and climate change. The Earth observation satellites are the only instrument able to observe large regions of the Earth with continuity and hourly frequency. A remote sensing debater(?) fuels the unified with other data coming from the localization and navigation systems allow to elaborate the space models and applications, extremely useful to study the natural phenomenal evolution in order to mitigate the ability of the people in front of disasters and globally second.

Space systems, as a tool of the scientific knowledge, astronomy, science, the Universe, physics, robotics and exploration are the basic tools(?) that have a large frontiers of knowledge and the Universe. Probably the next challenge will be the study of anti-matter or black matter. We are in this first line.

Third, a space system is a tool for security and defence. Men and women are operating in scenarios of conflicts \_\_\_\_\_(?) the troubles and peace-keeping

action can use, I must say, must use a space system to communicate and operate in the best conditions and to gather the necessary operational elements.

Fourth, a space system as a tool of economic development. Many studies have demonstrated that a space system constitutes a valid chain, non-\_\_\_\_\_ (?) in the development and research policy but in different social policies, industrial policies and sector policies, as an example, agriculture and medicine and telecommunications, education and civil protection.

Fifth, a space system as a tool of diplomacy. Space is a strategic field for our nation and its people. Italy developed the stronger experience in international relations in space cooperation. The participation in the European Space Agency, the cooperation in the International Space Station. Many bilateral scientific and technological agreements with both space-faring and emerging countries has demonstrated the functionality(?) and richness of the space field as a tool of dialogue and capacity-building.

Sixth, a space system as a tool of culture diffusion and inspiration. Finally, space must continue to inspire scientists, intellectuals and artists. Communication, education, information and inspiration are surely the main areas where the attention of the public and the governments and the new generations can converge.

In this context, Italy will cooperate and collaborate using its scientific capability, its space technological experience, its space system based on the Centre of Excellence, universities, research labs, data networks, large, medium and small companies, governance and diplomacy.

All items of the COPUOS agenda are subject of our interest because Italy is highly involved for years in space activities, in the implementation of space programmes, projects, in the observation and comprehensive of the Universe, in the \_\_\_\_\_(?), to increase the worth and quality of life in the progress of sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, let me say that Italy, and the Italian Space Agency in particular, are committed in the preservation of the outer space from near-objects and debris from pollutionary risks. We are involved in the application of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and contributed to the new activity related to the long-term sustainability of space activities.

As you are aware, Italy already engages in the development of a navigation system. We launch next October the Fifth International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems meeting in Turin, and in September 2012, the International Astronautical Conference in Naples.

In the next month, two of our astronauts, Paulo Nespoli and Roberto Vittori, will fly to the International Space Station with the Russian Soyuz vehicle in its mission and with the United States Shuttle in a NASA mission respectively. These two events testify our great involvement and support to exploration and observation global strategy.

In conclusion, sustainable development, environment, security, welfare and knowledge are the assets of the Italian Space Agency Strategy for the next 10 years to promote the development of the knowledge of society, development of the service for the citizens, and the establishment to adhesion(?) for the benefit of humankind.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thank you for your kind attention.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Spain, on behalf of the countries of the European Union, Ms. Tamara Zabala.

**Ms. T. ZABALA UTRILLAS (Spain):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to congratulate you for your election for these two years. We are confident that progress will be made during those two years. And I also thank you for your flexibility shown.

As the European Union has expressed in the Framework of the United Nations General Assembly, the European Union intends to propose a Code of Conduct on Spaced Objects and Space Activities. The European Union has developed, at the expert level, a draft Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, which was supported by the Council of the European Union on 8 and 9 December 2008.

The European Union believes that a voluntary Code of Conduct, which is not legally binding, will strengthen, safety, security and predictability of activities in outer space, among other things, by limiting or minimizing harmful interference, collisions or accidents in outer space.

The draft Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities is based on three main principles that should guide space activities: freedom for all to use outer space for peaceful purposes; preservation of the security and integrity of space objects in orbit; and due consideration for the legitimate security and defence interests of States.

The draft Code of Conduct is applicable to all outer space activities including the activities carried out within the framework of international intergovernmental organizations. The draft Code of Conduct calls for progress towards adherence to and implementation of the existing United Nations treaties, principles and other arrangements as subscribing Parties would commit to comply with them, to make progress towards adherence to them, to implement them and to promote their universality.

The draft Code of Conduct complements the existing framework regulating outer space activities by codifying new and innovative best practices in space operations, including notification, consultation, investigation and information mechanisms that would strengthen the confidence and transparency between space actors. It would then contribute to developing good faith solutions that would permit the performance of space activities and assets to space for all.

According to the draft Code, the Parties would implement, *inter alia*, the following confidence-building measures:

(a) In order to minimize the possibility of accidents in space, collisions between space objects or any form of harmful interference with other States' right to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, the States would establish and implement national policies and procedures and would take appropriate steps to minimize the mentioned risks;

(b) In order to limit the creation of space debris and reduce its impact in outer space, the subscribing States would implement the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/217;

(c) In order to prevent and minimize the possibility of accidents and collisions between space objects, the subscribing States would chair information on national space policies on an annual basis. They would commit to notifying in a timely manner the schedule manoeuvres, relevant orbital parameters, collisions or accidents, and objects with significant risk

of re-entry into the atmosphere or of an orbit collision. They will also create a central point of contact and an electronic database;

(d) Moreover, the subscribing States would create a consultation mechanism to achieve acceptable solutions in case of existing reason to believe that certain space activities are contrary to the purpose of the draft Code.

The Code of Conduct would lay down the basic rules to be observed by space-faring nations in all space activities. However, it does not include any provisions concerning the placement of weapons in outer space.

The purpose of the draft Code is not to duplicate or compete with initiatives already dealing with this issue. Nonetheless, as a transparency and confidence-building instrument, the draft does insist, *inter alia*, on the importance to take all measures in order to prevent space from becoming an area of conflict and cause of nations to resolve any conflict in outer space by peaceful means.

As to the participation in the Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, the aim of the authors is to reach soon a text that is acceptable to the greatest number of countries and can thus bring effective security benefits in a relatively short time. For this purpose, the European Union launched consultations with those States which have activities or interests in outer space. At the end of the aforesaid process, the European Union hopes to complete the development of the Code of Conduct that will be open for signature by all States on a voluntary basis at an Ad Hoc Conference.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Spain for her statement on behalf of the European Union.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Iraq, Mr. Amer Naoum.

**Mr. A. A. NAOUM** (Iraq) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished members of the Bureau, may I first and foremost congratulate you on your election. I convey these congratulations to other members of the Bureau and wish you every success in your duties.

May I briefly describe the space activities in Iraq.

The National Commission for the Peaceful Use of Outer Space is preparing a National Strategy for Space Applications and we are underlining the use of space data, enhancing capacity within Ministries, improving the level within each Ministry in a separate fashion so that we can then coordinate on a national level.

Because of the many challenges due to climate change, a drought of water resources, a deterioration of agricultural land, the Government's Secretariat has created programmes to combat desertification by providing financial support and underpinning for these projects.

Assistance projects from the United States Agricultural Service has helped us create desertification indicators for all crop coverage for 2010. The United States Programme has likewise enabled us to produce month detailed reports on main crops, the various forecasts and we use space data to that effect. We hope to continue with this Programme by bolstering Iraqi capacities.

At the same time, when the process of establishing a new project to control sand and dust clouds and winds and we are working the MODIS and EUMETSAT satellite. We are also using CALYPSO radar data. We are working on a research project with the University of Arkansas to use the various space data and radar information. The Ministry of Habitat and Environment uses space imagery to determine the major pathways throughout the Iraqi territory. This is done to target residential areas, especially those in the vicinity of desert areas in the western or southern areas of Iraq as well as dam-building on rivers and waterways.

The GPS system is an area where we are in the process of linking up our territory, particularly the differential DGPS and we are building centres to convert such data and identify and locate the various stations in the provincial areas of Iraq. We have four out of seven at this point in time linked up to the GPS.

We have also done some surveys to identify rivers and lakes to study depths using the GPS. Likewise, we have done mapping for irrigation projects, also for sewage water and for dams.

The National Centre for Water Resource Management use space images to establish maps and thus take a closer look at coastal areas as well and

areas bordering on other countries, neighbouring countries. This is intended to provide follow-up for waterways, catchment areas and lakes. We have 65 terrestrial survey stations sending data via METEOSAT-7. We have likewise checked the catchment areas on a monthly basis and established maps for that purpose.

Among the recommendations of the United Nations for the millennium, we find the reference to the need to set up infrastructure in each country that would be responsible for disaster management so that in Iraq we set up such a Disaster Management Centre in connection with the archives and we have established contacts with local, regional and international organizations.

Furthermore, we have set up a national company for geological surveys and mining activities and such surveys and maps were done to establish risk for Iraq and study special phenomenon. The company uses space imagery, which is high resolution, and we have precision data for geological purposes, for mining exploration, studying environmental changes, providing maps for soil coverage, and use of soils for different purposes for geo-morphology, in particular, and from some \_\_\_\_\_(?) and catchment areas.

The Ministry of the Environment is in the process of setting up an environmental database. An Atlas will be created for Iraq showing the data as they referred to pollution, refining activities, air pollution and radiological pollution.

We have cooperation for higher learning and education, particularly for doctoral studies with various universities.

We have a central body for statistics. It reports to the Planning Ministry. It has created digital maps for Iraq on a one to 1,000 scale covering the Iraqi project for the Census 2010. It is intended to create a geographic information system linking up the various data with the Census data. The Ministry is likewise in the process of preparing a questionnaire. This has to do with the various activities, individual Ministries and the peaceful uses of outer space.

By way of a conclusion, I would like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations for the support given Iraq. We reiterate that capacity-building in developing countries makes a contribution to space technology and placing that technology at the service of peoples.

We hope for even greater cooperation and support from the Office in order to enhance capacity to provide space data and ensure transfer of space technology. This would be a contribution in terms of bolstering the promising means we have to grapple with challenges now and in the future, be it in the context of water resource, of contamination, of agricultural pollution and climate change that we all have to face in the context of development plans and also developing our human resources in the region.

Thank you Sir.

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

Distinguished delegates, is there any other delegation wishing to speak under this agenda item in this morning's session?

I see none.

We will, therefore, continue our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, in the afternoon to hear the statements requested by delegations.

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

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Venezuela, Mr. Roberto Becerra.

**Mr. R. BECERRA** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Chairman, since this is the very first time that I am taking the floor, I would like to greet you and all of your colleagues in the Bureau and wish you the best in your undertaking here in the Committee.

I am very happy to be able to speak once again under item 6 and I will be very brief in my statement.

Since 1959, COPUOS, each and every year, is considering to what extent international cooperation with regard to the peaceful use made of outer space has advanced and it develops United Nations-sponsored programmes, encourages research and dissemination of information on space law. And both COPUOS, as well

as its Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, considers issues such as space debris, the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, near-Earth objects, disaster management with the assistance of outer space technology, as well as other emerging and similar issues.

On this basis, and given the fact that this is a standing body of the General Assembly, the Committee has scientific, technical, legal and political missions and powers which are very directly involved in the processes meant to maintain the peaceful nature of outer space activities and COPUOS plays a very important role in encouraging cooperation in outer space activities and it indeed is a forum to encourage proper information exchange among States, offering opportunities to step up inter-State collaboration on this topic. However, this is not the only way to guarantee the peaceful nature of the activities which are conducted in outer space. And in this respect, and my delegation believes, that it is necessary to establish a political policy-making framework for discussion and coordination of our work which would thereby promote the establishment of standards and international mechanisms to effectively respond to the problems raised in this field, for example, the fact that we do not have a definition of what constitutes outer space and how it is delimited, how we should use nuclear energy on Earth orbits and in other words, there are many issues of this sort which should be responded to.

We believe that it is necessary to update international legislation in order to signal that it is completely clearly prohibited to place technologies into outer space. Apparently, the Arabic interpreter is not heard. I can wait until the technical problem is resolved, of course. There is no Arabic version being heard unfortunately.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Technical problem, Arabic booth, please note. Has the problem been resolved?

**Mr. R. BECERRA** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): So if I might, Chairman, if you want I can start all over again from the very beginning of my statement.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The last phrase please, when I noticed that there is no translation.

**Mr. R. BECERRA** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I could have started but I will start up where I stopped.

But this cannot be the only way of guaranteeing the peaceful nature of outer space activities, I was saying. And our delegation considers that it is necessary to set up a policy-making framework for discussion coordination with other bodies in the United Nations system to promote the establishment of international standards and mechanisms to properly respond effectively to the major issues relating to outer space, for example, the fact that we do not have a definition as to what constitutes outer space. There is also the issue of the use of nuclear power sources and the threat of space debris, etc.

And in this regard, our delegation believes that it is necessary to update international legislation so that it be very clearly indicated that it is absolutely prohibited to place and use any weapon-type technology in outer space. It is very necessary to adapt the legal system in such a way so as to prevent and forestall any risk of this sort. We also do not have a very clear definition about certain concepts and because of that it is very difficult indeed to absolutely secure the maintenance of the peaceful nature of outer space. If there are other international fora on these matters, it can also usefully broach this, for example, the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament, but COPUOS really has the duty of stepping up its coordination and contacts with other United Nations bodies which are also involved in this matter in order to fully fulfil and discharge its duties in this respect.

Thank you very much.

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

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak under this agenda item at this morning's session or generally speaking for this afternoon?

In this case, I see none.

We will, therefore, conclude our consideration of agenda item 6, Ways and Means of Maintaining Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

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

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 7, Implementation of the

Recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, UNISPACE III.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putkov.

**Mr. V. D. PUTKOV** (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you very much. Good morning Chairman, distinguished delegates, colleagues. At the outset, I, of course, also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Chairman, upon your election to the Chair and certainly wish you the best in the discharge of your duties. I am sure that indeed the work of the Committee under the aegis and guidance of the work of a renowned cosmonaut is certainly going to prove successful.

In the Russian Federation, UNISPACE III recommendations are being implemented in response to the Russian Federation Law on Outer Space Activities and this is done by the Federal Space Agency which is the Federal body of the Executive Branch responsible for outer space activities and this body works with the participation of the Ministries involved in international cooperation in conducting joint programmes and projects in outer space and is in the following nine areas.

I possibly am not going to be detailing them all but I would like to say that this year we are especially limelighting the implementation of three projects, and here this is maximizing the yield resulting from the use of global satellite navigation systems in support of sustainable development thereby ensuring that there is significant advances towards both achieving goals and tasks set for the Special Federal GLONASS Programme as well as in activities of the International Committee on Global Navigation Systems.

Indeed, it is important to note that in significant movement ahead has been noted in regard to using GLONASS for sustainable development and has also been very good headway in the Committee in charge of this matter.

There is work done, for example, in GLONASS to ensure the proper development and implementation of the GLONASS system. Also work on designing, preparing the production of and manufacturing navigation equipment for civilian users, also integrating and using navigation satellite systems for transport purposes, the development the geodesic

basis of the Russian Federation and the development of navigation equipment for special users.

And here it has become increasingly important for Russia to indeed focus on the requirements of civilian users and commercial service as well. It is necessary for us to ensure spatial, temporal and navigation support for them in a compatible and complementary fashion with other global navigation satellite systems.

And the United Nations General Assembly recommended ICG, that is the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, which was set up pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly resolution has become one of the main coordinating international bodies on the development and implementation of navigation satellite systems. And the development of these navigation technologies and the establishment of new global regulation systems requires the development of general principles, rules for the international joint activities on navigation. And to ensure the participation of the Russian Federation in this International Committee on Global Satellite Communication Systems, an Inter-Agency Council ensuring the participation of Russia in this International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems has been set up.

And regarding the issues on activating the use of outer space systems, we should say the following. It is important indeed to consider that one of the high priority areas for the practical use of space resources in the twenty-first century should indeed be precisely the monitoring of emergency situations. The topicality, the importance of addressing global problems in this regard are self-evident. In order to properly resolve this, under the Programme KNOPAS-B(?), we have planned launches of Russian satellites to monitor natural and man-made emergency situations, in particular earthquakes and forest fires, for example. And if this Programme were to be properly implemented, then it would be possible to usefully and effectively pool the efforts made by various countries in seeking effective methods to forecast natural disasters and to bring to bear their resources, the resources of space-faring powers to develop both satellite systems for such as well as other land-based support systems. And this, in the final upshot, will serve to establish an international system to have an early warning control and forecasting and mitigation system for the consequences of these major disasters.

And proposals have been presented indeed with respect to the joining of Russia to the International Charter, COSMOS, and outer space and

global disasters. This is provided for coordination activities of operator States conducting Earth observations in exchange of data. For example, it would be possible for us with the use of our network using three SPUTNIK Meteor M-II, to fulfil its partnership obligations before the WMO, the World Meteorological Organization, supporting international outer space and national observer systems.

And within the framework of the FKP-2015, we intend to set up a series of international and other promising space vehicles. This is planned. And after the Orbital Network of Outer Space Remote Sensing Spacecraft goes into effect, indeed this is going to expand our cooperation with other States and GEOS and GMES. And in this fashion, we will be able to step up the use made of outer space resources, trained and hydrometeorological and natural resources and this will allow us to better do emergency monitoring, agriculture, mapping, improve rational land use, monitor forests, control water resources, look for mineral deposits, etc.

At present, on-orbit we have Resource DK No. 1 space vehicle and monitoring M No. 1 on-orbit.

And the operational space vehicles for high-resolution are constantly producing more and more photos of the Earth's surface especially for Eurasia and increasingly we have more and more operational coverage which is better for the end-users and beneficiaries of such data.

And the GLONASS is a separate programme and we have indeed made provision for the development of projects which can maximize the effective use of outer space potentially available to prevent and mitigate emergency situations.

The Russian Federation made great efforts to conduct activities establishing the infrastructure to enable use of the results of outer space activities, thereby promoting the socio-economic and innovative development of Russia. A programme has developed projects, plans, work is ongoing to strengthen and build up the potential of an orbital and land-based outer space infrastructure in order to activate the use of satellite navigation technologies and remote sensing from outer space and space communication in order to further mini-sectors, economics, ecology, urbanism, agro-industry, transport, etc.

Without the use of outer space services, it is indeed impossible to even conceive of the life of a civilized society on our Earth.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**The CHAIRMAN** (*interpretation from Russian*): Thank you very much distinguished representative of the Russian Federation.

(*Continued in English*) The next speaker on my list on agenda item 7 is the distinguished representative of Portugal, Mr. Filipe Duarte Santos.

**Mr. F. DUARTE SANTOS** (Portugal): Mr. Chairman, I wish first to compliment you on your election along with the other members of the Bureau. I am sure that under your able and experienced leadership, our work in this Committee will be fruitful. I can assure you of the full collaboration of my delegation to achieve the goals of the Committee.

I would like to express the full support of my delegation for the implementation of the recommendations of the UNISPACE III Conference. Portugal had an active role in this process and in particular it shared an Action Team on Meteorological Satellites.

Another aspect that I would like to emphasize is that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee welcomed the decision by the Working Group of the Whole to focus its efforts regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the UNISPACE III Conference on the Committee's contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In this respect, the Note by the Secretariat, document A/AC.105/944, on the Contribution of the Committee to the Work of the Commission for the Thematic Cluster 2010-2011, is of great value.

Space systems and space technology are essential to achieve the goals of sustainable development. They play a vital role in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals which are often referred to in particular in the documents of this Committee. Unfortunately, it is now clear from the Millennium Development Goals 2009 Report that a significant part of the 25 objectives that were established and agreed upon for 2015 will not be met. Let me mention just a few examples.

As much as one billion people are likely to remain in extreme poverty by 2015 and in 2009, about 1.02 billion were severely under-nourished or, in other words, were living in hunger, compared with 842 million in 1990.

As regards water resources, water scarcity now affects almost half the world population and this percentage is increasing.

There is also a target to reduce significantly the loss of biodiversity by 2010 but currently the number of species threatened with extinction is rapidly increasing.

It is good to recognize that much has been done as regards eradicating poverty, improving food security and education but we are still far from achieving the goals and time is short. More has to be done.

In the water sector, space technology, especially Earth observation satellites, contributes significantly to understand the water cycle and, therefore, to an effective management of water resources.

As regards food security, satellite observations are very important to monitor agricultural productivity, land use changes and in particular desertification.

As regards forests, where most of the terrestrial biodiversity resides, Earth observation satellites are crucial for monitoring and to reach sustainable forest management procedures.

These issues are particularly relevant at present since the thematic cluster of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 2010-2011 addresses specifically sustainable resource management, consumption, production, in conjunction with water resource management, energy, land use, rural development, pollution and climate.

We usually speak about sustainable development which is understandable since it conveys a positive attitude but the fact is that we are witnessing unsustainable situations in various sectors. There are essential four main focus of unsustainability at present and to each of them space systems and space technology can contribute with solutions.

The most important is poverty and increasing inequities of development worldwide between States and within States.

The second regards energy and most specifically the sustainability of energy systems. Here we have to consider three questions, access to energy, the price of energy and environmental compatibility.

As regards the last point, the problem is that about 80 per cent of the global primary energy sources are fossil fuels responsibility for most of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that cause climate change. Furthermore, it is a non-renewable natural resource, at least in our timescales.

The third focus of unsustainability is related to food security, to water resources and to biodiversity loss.

The fourth is climate change.

All these four issues are inter-related so that no one of them can be ignored. We have to address the four in an integrated and coherent way and this is a huge endeavour.

I would like to express the opinion that the Committee should consider the possibility of addressing the challenges of improving the space contribution to sustainable development by concentrating on the four major issues that have great relevance at present.

It is important challenges for humanity and not adequately addressed the risk of future social, economic and environmental crises will increase substantially.

The possibility of establishing quite defined goals for the work of this Commission on the space contribution to sustainable development should be considered. This could be taken into account in the context of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities under Point G. In this respect, my delegation supports the view expressed in the forty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of a fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Use of Outer Space to address the major current challenges of sustainable development.

One of the crucial challenges in this respect that should be addressed in such a Conference is how to maximize the benefits of space systems and space technology for developing countries, in particular through capacity-building in those countries.

In this respect, a relevant initiative that I would like to mention before finishing is the GMES and Africa process which was launched in a dedicated event in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2007. GMES stands for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and it is a European Union initiative for the establishment of a European capacity for Earth observation. The

commitment of my country expressed in the Lisbon Declaration on the GMES and Africa Partnership is to develop an Action Plan and to submit it for adoption to the next Africa/European Union Summit to be held in Libya at the end of this year. This Action Plan has been drafted by experts from both continents and is now open for public discussion on the web until 31 July.

Thank you for your attention Mr. Chairman.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Japan, Mr. Taketoshi Sano.

**Mr. T. SANO (Japan):** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I am pleased to present Japan's activities related to the implementation of the UNISPACE II recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, Japan has actively participated in and contributed to a number of Action Teams established to implement the Vienna Declaration, adopted in 1999. In particular, Japan has served as the Chair of the Action Team 17 to enhance capacity-building by developing human and budgetary resources.

As a follow-up to discussions related to space education and awareness during the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, or APRSAF, Japan supported activities to highlight the importance of space science and technology and the applications for the sustainable development. This was carried out in order to increase support from the general public for space education and to deepen the younger generation's understanding of the benefits of space.

In recent years, space education has become one of the many activities of APRSAF. For example, the APRSAF Water Rocket Event was held this past January in Bangkok, Thailand, during the APRSAF-16, with a large number of participants, including many school students from the region. In addition, the APRSAF Poster Contest was held during the meeting.

The Space Education and Awareness Working Group of APRSAF also discussed the various ways and means in which each countries space activities can contribute to improving space education for young people and how we can produce space-related materials

into the classroom to make learning more enjoyable for the students.

Japan will continue to make efforts to stimulate interest in space among young people and inspire them to develop visions for the future through these space activities.

As for Earth observation education, JAXA earnestly address the cultivation of the human resources by contributing the training and promotion of remote sensing applications through projects on utilization and the \_\_\_\_\_cation(?) of the Advanced Land Observing Satellite, DAICHI, carried out with organizations in Thailand and Indonesia.

We will make a technical presentation on space education activities of JAXA under agenda item 11.

Mr. Chairman, now I would like to mention other recent activities to implement the UNISPACE III recommendations that have been carried out by Action Teams in which Japan has participated.

To begin with, as part of the Action Team 1, Development of a Comprehensive Worldwide Environmental Monitoring Strategy, Japan contributed to fulfilling the 10-year implementation plan as a member of the Group of Earth Observations, or GEO, Executive Committee, and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, or CEOS, last November. Last November, JAXA formally inaugurated as a \_\_\_\_\_(?) of the Strategic Implementation Team, or SIT, of CEOS. Japan were aiming to contribute to GOSS, through mainly addressing the priority items of CEOS such as monitoring of greenhouse gases, forest and carbon tracking and climate change monitoring. Moreover, Japan intends to contribute to GEO on the issue of climate change by participating in the Global Detailed Observation of the Distribution of Greenhouse Gases Concentration(?) such as carbon dioxide and methane. This will be done using the Greenhouse Gases Observation Satellite, or GOSAT or IBUKI, and by monitoring the forest through DAICHI.

Furthermore, a system to monitor the illegal dumping of industrial waste was established as a pilot project with the cooperation of the \_\_\_\_\_(?) University using the satellite images from DAICHI.

Following the success of the pilot system, the Minister of Environment has promoted a system in more than 10 prefectures and based on the results of the evaluation of these pilot projects nationwide promotion

and \_\_\_\_\_(?) potential of the senior projects is expected.

In order to promote remote sensing activities in the Asia-Pacific region, APRSAF has been active in exchanging information and has been making specific proposals to promote cooperation activities in the field of space technology.

Mr. Chairman, regarding Action Team 10, Implementation of Universal Access and Compatibility of the Space-Based Navigation and \_\_\_\_\_(?) Systems called Global Navigation Satellite System, or GNSS. Japan, as a member country will continue to participate in the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, or ICG, which is discussed the utilization of GNSS and the cooperation necessary to realize the compatibility and interoperability on GNSS. We will do this in accordance with our Basic Plan entitled "The Basic Plan for the Advancement of Utilizing Geo-Spatial Information", or AUEGI, which the Cabinet approved in April 2008, and the Action Plan for AUEGI, which was established in our country last August.

Additionally, Japan is developing the QUASI-ZENITH Satellite System, or QZSS, and is utilizing the Multi-functional Transport Satellite-based Augmentation System, or M-SAS.

These are two organization systems, the Global Positioning System, or GPS, belongs of the first QUASI-ZENITH satellite, QZS-1, named the MICHIBIKI, is scheduled for 2 August.

QZSS consists of several satellites with highly-inclined orbits and geosynchronous players. At any given time, at least one of the QZSS satellites is located over Japan. A light geostationary satellite, QZSS can transmit signals free from obstructions in \_\_\_\_\_(?) or mountainous areas because the satellite remains aloft at all times. In addition, the system used together with GPS, promises to alert areas where GPS can be used. To promote convenience for GPS users and generally provide much more accurate positioning information. QZSS is accessible also in this area and \_\_\_\_\_(?) and the research on the positioning experiment system is expected to increase benefits to the GPS users and to more promote the uses of satellite positioning systems.

Mr. Chairman, regarding the Action Team 7, Implementation of Integrated System to Manage a Natural Disaster Mitigation Relief and Prevention Efforts, Japan is now working closely on the Sentinel-Asia Project, together with countries and organizations

in the Asia-Pacific region. Through these activities, Japan will contribute to the UN SPIDER Project.

Japan is of the view that the recommendations of UNISPACE III can be firmly implemented in collaboration with COPUOS member countries, the United Nations and the other national organizations. Japan will continue to support the implementation of the Vienna Declaration, to the \_\_\_\_\_(?) permitted by the limited resources.

In particular, we believe that Japan can play a critical role by working with countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Japan will do this by cooperating through APRSAF and switching the relations between our country and the international frameworks such as the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Before concluding, I would like to make one short announcement about our reception. As Mr. Chairman, Mr. Prunariu, kindly mentioned, the reception will be held today at lunchtime at our Permanent Mission in the Andromeda Tower on the 24<sup>th</sup> Floor. The building is just five-minutes walk from the VIC. All participants are cordially invited to join us.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak under this agenda item at this morning's meeting?

I see none.

We have, therefore, concluded our consideration of agenda item 7, Implementation of the Recommendations of UNISPACE III.

**Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-seventh session (agenda item 8)**

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to begin our consideration of agenda item 8, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Seventh Session.

Before opening the floor for statements, I would like to note that the views of delegations and decisions of the Subcommittee are contained in document A/AC.105/958.

I would also draw your attention to Annex I of the Report of the Subcommittee which reflects the Draft Provisional Agenda for the Forty-Eighth Session of the Subcommittee to be held in 2011.

Now I would like to open the floor for statements.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Germany, Ms. Annette Froehlich.

**Ms. A. FROEHLICH** (Germany): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates. The \_\_\_\_\_(?) volcanic eruption showed us once more very clearly how vulnerable our daily lives in the economic world really is.

Germany has a leading role in Earth observation via satellite. So Germany would like to underline the necessity of data acquisition and the importance of the continuous efforts for modern Earth observation satellites.

On account of this, we are very happy that the recent launch of the European Earth Observation Satellite, CRYOSAT-2, in April 2010, from Baikonaur, was a success.

This satellite will measure the Antarctic and green and ice sheets until 2013. Researchers expect to gain a new understanding of the relationship between global warming, the shrinking of the polar ice sheets and changes of oceanic and atmospheric circulation.

Germany contributes 24 per cent of the total funding for the European Space Agency Living Planet Programme on which a CRYOSAT-2 mission is ...

**The CHAIRMAN:** Sorry, there is no Arabic translation. Do you hear anything from the Arabic booth.

There seems to be a technical problem. There was interpretation into Arabic (*says the Arabic booth in French*).

I see the Arabic translator speaks.

Just a moment please. We are sitting here in this new building and maybe the equipment is not yet verified.

Do you hear anything in Arabic?

The sound quality is atrocious into Arabic (*says interpreter*).

Sorry, we use the so high space technology and the Earth technology is not yet working.

I see in the booth the technicians are working on the system.

Is it OK now?

It seems to be OK with the Arabic translation.

The microphones do not seem to be working in the booth (*says the interpreter*).

I will just wait for a sign from the booth.

It is OK. Please, did you have the very beginning problems with the translation or in the Arabic?

From the beginning yes? I am sorry.

Please, repeat your statement. We have to have the translation in all languages.

**Ms. A. FROEHLICH** (Germany): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the quite ordinary(?) volcanic eruption \_\_\_\_\_(?) showed us once more very clearly how vulnerable our daily lives in the economic world really is.

Germany has a leading role in Earth observation via satellite. So Germany would like to underline the necessity of data acquisition and the importance of continuous efforts for modern Earth observation satellites.

On account of this, we are very happy that the recent launch of the Earth observation satellite, CRYOSAT-2, in April 2010, from Baikonaur, was a success. This satellite will measure Antarctic and green and ice sheets until 2013. Researchers expect to gain a new understanding of the relationship between global warming, the shrinking of the polar ice sheet and changes of oceanic and atmospheric circulation.

Germany contributes 24 per cent of the total funding for the European Space Agency Living Planet Programme on which the CRYOSAT mission is a part. The total cost of this mission is around 140 million Euros.

Germany is playing a leading role in the mission. The main contractor for the construction of

CRYOSAT-2 was EADS Astrium in Friedrichshafen. AABG Autobrun performed the tests that verified the calculations operation and readiness and the mission is being controlled and monitored by ESA's \_\_\_\_\_(?) Safe Operation Centre in Dunstadt(?).

In all, 18 scientific institutions will be proceeding and evaluating the data. The DLR German Remote Sensing Data Centre in Oberpfaffenhofen will be involved in imaging processing, while the coordinating of use applications and a publication will be handled by the DLR in collaboration with the Alfred Wegener(?) Institute for Polar and \_\_\_\_\_(?) Research in Bremerhafen(?).

The mission is scheduled to last a total of three years. CRYOSAT-2 is the third explorer mission in ESA's Living Planet Earth Research Programme, following the GOES gravity mission and the small SPOT mission.

Three more specialized satellites are currently being built.

Mr. Chairman, in fact, we are just celebrating the fifteenth birthday of the ERS-2 Earth Observation Satellite. Originally designed to monitor Earth for only three years, it is still in orbit and delivers even after 15 years essential data to improve our understanding of Earth and climate change. ERS-2 was launched in 1995 to continue the service of the first European remote sensing mission, ERS-1. At the time, these two satellites were the most sophisticated European Earth observation spacecraft ever developed, both constructed under the industrial lead of EADS Astrium in Friedrichshafen.

Also ERS-2 was launched to replace ERS-1 so the original mission was still in very good health and went on to remain in operation until 1999. This unexpected longevity gave rise to a unique opportunity in the field of Earth observation. The satellite could be flown in tandem to generate new data, to monitor changes on the surface of Earth. The success of the first tandem operation also paved the way for further tandem operations and missions such as Germany's TANDEM-X.

The launch of TANDEM-X is scheduled this month for 21 June. TANDEM-X represents the first step of a constellation of radar satellites and will ensure the German leading role for expand(?) technology.

The user community will have access to a broad spectrum of scientific, commercial and security applications.

TANDEM-X is a project of a public/private partnership between the German Aerospace Centre and EADS Astrium.

In this context, we would like to renew the offer by DLR, the German Aerospace Centre, in a concerted \_\_\_\_\_(?) DDRD, the German Academic Exchange Service of researcher fellowships in the field of space, aeronautics, energy and transportation research.

More information about this programme you can find on our website.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, we thank you for your kind attention.

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

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Canada, Mr. Phillip Baines.

**Mr. P. BAINES (Canada):** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Canada is pleased that a Working Group has been established under the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to deal with the issue of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Our respective use of outer space can be described by four letter C's. It is critical. It is congested. It is competitive and it is contested. These adjectives all imply that the security of outer space is of paramount importance.

In turn, we can speak about the security of outer space in terms of three letter S's, security, safety and sustainability. These three S's deal with respectively the use of outer space by governments to ensure the security of its territory and citizens, the safe completion of space flight operations and the ability of humanity to use outer space well into the future. One incontrovertible fact about space is that without security, however, you cannot have either safety or sustainability. For example, no matter what safety and sustainability guarantees are negotiated for use during peace time, humanity's continued use of outer space would be threatened by the space debris produced by the world's first, and perhaps last, conflict in outer space. This is why Canada considers it important to discuss space security in the context of the present session.

There are two principle inter-related threats to space security, the possibility of space-based weapons

and the possibility of anti-satellite weapon systems. To help reduce and eventually eliminate these two threats, Canada has proposed over the last year in various international fora, three simple rules for space security that seek to preserve the space environment for the future, even during conflict among nations. The rules are: one, do not place a weapon in outer space; two, do not test or use a satellite itself as a weapon; and, three, do not test or use a weapon on a satellite so as to damage or destroy it. If States agree to the first two rules, it allows States to agree to the third one. At the same time, however, States are still able to use active protection measures based upon radio-frequency interference mechanisms that produce only temporary localized and reversible effects to protect national security interests under certain circumstances. This is crucial for the long-term sustainability of outer space.

The combination of these guarantees can preserve the space environment and protect both international space security and national security interests under all circumstances, peace, crisis, war, stabilization and reconstruction.

The space security guarantees proposed by Canada, were they to be accepted by the international community, would be given by all States for the benefit of all space actors. While the work on ensuring the space security of space must take place within the Conference on Disarmament, as mentioned above, it is impossible to have safety or sustainability in space if we do not have security. With this in mind, Canada encourages all delegations here today to return to their capitals with the message emphasizing the need to engage constructively on the issue of space security within the Conference on Disarmament.

In the end, it is in our part, add one more letter C to describe the use of outer space, cooperation. That is also what we hope to accomplish with our immediate work on safety and sustainability within the Working Group established by COPUOS for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

Looking at the work before us in this forum, on this agenda item, Canada believes that we should focus on the development of best practices or guidelines for collision avoidance. In this regard, topics such as pre-launch, pre-manoeuvre and re-entry notification, a registry of operators, including their contact information, common standards, best practices and guidelines and ultimately the establishment of national regulatory regimes could all contribute to the utility of this work.

Lastly, Canada would envision national voluntary implementation of any guidelines or best practices emerging from the work undertaken under this agenda item as opposed to any binding per multilateral obligations.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce the second speaker, Dr. David Kendall, under this agenda item.

**Mr. D. KENDALL** (Canada): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Canadian delegation and in our capacity as co-Chair of Action Team 6 relating to the improvement of public health services, we are pleased to provide this intervention in order to inform delegations about a number of activities that took place over the past year, as well as activities planned in the near future to conclude the work of this team.

As a reminder, Action Teams were established to follow up on the recommendations of UNISPACE III held in 1999. The teams provide a mechanism for bringing together volunteer participants and organizations able to and interested in providing scientific and technical expertise for achieving the specific objectives related to the recommendations.

Action Team 6, commonly referred to as AT6, was established in 2001. Its mission is to foster the implementation of projects and programmes related to tele-health applications and to improve public health services by facilitating space technology applications, the importance of which was highlighted in your opening statement, Mr. Chairman.

The leadership of AT6 was initially provided by representatives of Canada and the World Health Organization serving as co-Chairs. Since 2009, Canada and India have acted as the co-Chairs.

In 2007, AT6 expanded its scope beyond tele-medicine which uses the capabilities and applications of satellite telecommunications to include tele-epidemiology which makes greater use of Earth observations. Consultations took place through workshops organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in various parts of the world, namely in Thailand, Burkina Faso, India and Italy. Thanks to these activities, AT6 was able to make a number of specific observations and findings that we would like to share with the delegations.

First, significant differences seem to exist in the operational integration of space technologies within health organizations in different parts of the world. This stands in contrast to the proliferation of technical

and scientific disciplines relevant to public health, for example, those that study global changes in the environment, climate change, the impact and of the intensification of agriculture and population growth, etc.

Secondly, there is a considerable challenge of trans-disciplinary collaboration among scientists and organizations with different mandates, for example, between space agencies and health ministries and their affiliated institutions. This is true for industrialized countries with space capabilities as well as for developing countries.

And finally, a daunting challenge is posed by the integration of space technologies with other technologies in the area of public health. These include: one, medical diagnosis using geomatics and other technologies; two, analytical tools, for example, geographic information systems modelling predictions; and, three, computer systems web data capture systems, warning systems, information and data access and interoperability.

In conclusion, space technologies, particularly those related to tele-epidemiology, make a major contribution to a trans-disciplinary approach to the exploration of new links between the environment and various health conditions. The recent spread of the H1-N1 flu virus demonstrates the vulnerability of populations to threats posed by pandemics that do not respect the physical borders between nations.

Better harmonization of space technologies with the key public health functions and national surveillance objectives is needed in order to put in place effective prevention, surveillance, follow-up, warning and response programmes. It is, therefore, essential that discussions continue at the international, national and regional levels in order that the deployment and use of space technologies may bring concrete benefits to meet the health needs of all.

AT6 is pursuing the goal of its 2010-2011 Work Plan surrounding finalization of the consultations that began three years ago on the topic of tele-health in general with an emphasis on tele-epidemiology. With India and Canada as co-Chairs and the contribution of organizations that already have ties to AT6, we expect to consolidate our observations and develop concrete recommendations to be presented in a report at the forty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in February 2011.

To ensure that the fruit of the work of Action Team 6 will be a product of even greater benefit to all,

we invite all member States that have not yet been in contact with AT6, to share with us their respective experiences in tele-medicine and tele-epidemiology, as well as their needs and their vision.

In closing, on behalf of Action Team 6, we would like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its continuing support to our activities.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representatives of Canada for their statements.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the United States of America, Mr. James Higgins.

**Mr. J. HIGGINS** (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express our appreciation for the excellent work of Mr. Ulrich Huth of Germany, as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee this year. Under his guidance, the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee made significant progress and addressed a wide variety of topics.

In addition, the United States delegation once again commends the outstanding work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in supporting the Subcommittee in all of its Working Groups.

My delegation has noted the positive developments in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in addressing how it will proceed to address the UNISPACE III recommendations. We believe the flexible approach that uses multi-year work plans, Action Teams, where appropriate, and reports by other groups on their activities, is proving to be an effective means of implementing the UNISPACE III recommendations in permitting us to address a broad range of relevant issues.

We fully endorse the report of the 2010 Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

We would like to especially note the decision by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to establish a Working Group under the chairmanship of Peter Martinez of South Africa, to carry out the new Work Plan on the Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities. We believe this topic is very timely due to the increasing number of space actors, spacecraft and space debris. It is essential that we come together to agree on measures that can be employed to reduce the risks to space operations for all. We are prepared to

work productively in the Working Group to achieve that objective.

We would also like to highlight the progress made at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in reaching consensus on a new multi-year work plan for the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. Following up on its excellent work on developing a Safety Framework for the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, the Working Group will now examine any obstacles to implementing this Framework through national mechanisms.

We congratulate the Chairman of the Nuclear Power Sources Working Group, Mr. Sam Harbison of the United Kingdom, for his dedicated work to ensure that a consensus model for the use of nuclear power sources in space is now a reality.

Mr. Chairman, I would also mention that the United States was pleased that the Subcommittee has begun consideration of a new agenda item on the International Space Weather Initiative. This is a natural follow-on to the International Heliophysical Year, IHY 2007, agenda item, and it will allow viable international cooperation begun under the IHY, to continue well into the future as we seek to understand more fully the effects of the Sun on our space infrastructure and our environment here on Earth.

On the matter of space debris, the February 2009 collision between the Iridium and Cosmos satellites certainly served to reinforce our attention on this issue. Discussion at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee this year confirmed that national experts will continue to pursue research to mitigate the effects of space debris and we look forward to hearing in the future how member States are implementing the United Nations Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines that were approved in 2007.

At the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee session, we welcomed an update on the activities of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, the ICG, which emerged from the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, UNISPACE III, and was formally established in November of 2006. The ICG continues to make significant progress towards the goals of encouraging compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and promoting the use of GNSS and its integration into the infrastructures, particularly in developing countries.

The United States will continue to coordinate with COPUOS member States in support of the ICG in the Providers Forum.

As General Assembly resolution 58/89 as provided, reports on activities of the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue are to be considered under this agenda item.

Accordingly, I would like to briefly address United States participation in an International COSPAS-SARSAT Satellite Search and Rescue Programme.

Presently, 40 countries and two organizations participate in the operation and management of the COSPAS-SARSAT system. The United States, along with its partners in Canada, France and EUMETSAT, continue to provide a space segment consisting of geostationary and polar orbiting environmental satellite systems. Combined with contributions from other international partners, the COSPAS-SARSAT Programme now has six polar orbiting and five geostationary satellites that provide worldwide coverage for emergency beacons.

In 2009, the COSPAS-SARSAT Alert Data helped save 1,596 lives in 478 search and rescue events worldwide. Since becoming operational in 1982, the system has provided assistance in rescuing over 28,000 persons in some 7,700 search and rescue events.

The United States continues to assist in an effort to expand the use of the International Beacon Registration Database for COSPAS-SARSAT. This capability enables beacon owners who live in countries that do not register beacons to have a place to do so. It also enables nations that maintain a beacon registration service but do not have it available online to manage their beacons within the international database. Accurate and timely beacon registration is vital to the success of a SAR response to beacon activation as it gives the SAR authorities appropriate information about the beacon owner.

Additionally, the United States and its partners continue to explore the use of satellites in mid-Earth orbit to improve international satellite-aided search and rescue operations.

The United States recently concluded proof of concept testing using its Global Positioning System Satellites. Initial results showed that the potential for significant improvements in location accuracy and timeliness of capturing an alert. Further work will be

conducted to characterize the performance of the neo-SAR system once there are additional satellites in orbit.

In preparation for this neo-SAR system, COSPAS-SARSAT will have an Expert Working Group in September of this year in Washington D.C. to discuss and agree upon future beacon requirements. This meeting will be the first of several to define capabilities of future beacons that can best take advantage of the neo-satellites in improvements in technology since the introduction of the current 406 Megahertz beacons.

The COSPAS-SARSAT Programme has adopted a set of qualitative and quantitative performance measures to support the Strategic Plan. Initial performance measures include delivery of distress alerts to appropriate search and rescue points of contact, alert location accuracy, implementation status of quality management system, continuous monitoring processes and COSPAS-SARSAT-assisted SAR events. Additional measures have been drafted and will be evaluated at further meetings.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate that my delegation welcomes the special presentations made before this Committee in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on a wide variety of topics. We continue to believe that these presentations serve to provide complementary technical content for our deliberations and provide timely information that is useful in keeping delegations informed about new programmes and developments in the space community as well as illustrative examples of the applications of space technology.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the United States of America for his statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Indonesia, Ms. Erna Sri Adiningshi.

**Ms. E. S. ADININGSHI (Indonesia):** Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, in line with our previous statement under agenda item 5, my delegation notes with satisfaction that the Subcommittee made progress in the deliberations of issues in accordance with its mandate. In particular, with regards to the \_\_\_\_\_ (?) area of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, my delegation fully supports the prioritized areas to be implemented under the UNSPA.

Furthermore, my delegation is of the view that the interest of developing countries should be taken into consideration in the implementation of such programmes.

In that regard, participation of scientists or experts from developing countries could be further encouraged by providing necessary funding for their participating in such events.

With regard to the issue of remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, my delegation observes the increasing activities in the utilization of space-based data for sustainable development. In this connection, my delegation believes that it is of utmost importance to enhance international cooperation between States as well as with other relevant international organizations.

Indonesia will fully support and participate in the international cooperation in the use of remote sensing satellites to address global strategic issues such as climate change, sustainable development, water resource management as well as disaster management.

Furthermore, my delegation also emphasizes the importance of ensuring equitable access for utilization of remote sensing data on a reasonable cost basis.

Mr. Chairman, on the issue of space debris, my delegation takes note with appreciation the deliberations of this issue during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

I would also like to reiterate the Indonesia position that Indonesia welcomes the adoption of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines during the fifty-second session of COPUOS last year and encourage member States to fully implement the Guidelines.

In that connection, taking into consideration the vulnerability to the trap of space debris as well as the lack of expertise and capability of developing countries, it is of highly importance that there should be best practice sharing and training in order to enhance the required capability of developing countries to fully implement the Guidelines.

Furthermore, effective implementation of the Guidelines will also heavily depend on the commitment of all member States, particularly the launching States, to ensure transparency in their space activities especially if those activities carry potentially harmful risk.

In this regard, we would like to encourage the availability and transparency of detailed information of potential space debris.

With regard to the issue of near-Earth objects, my delegation is of the view that international cooperation is very essential in addressing the issue of near-Earth observation on a regular basis, data information sharing and capacity-building for developing countries.

International Space Weather Initiatives is also one of the areas in which space science demonstrates its essential role in the sustainable development of the Earth and space environment.

In this regard, Indonesia fully supports and encourages the initiatives involving member States and will take active participation through national as well as regional activities.

In relation with the frequent natural disasters that happened recently, such as in Haiti, Chile and other parts of the world, the Space System-Based Disaster Management Support is highly relevant and important in helping mitigation of natural disasters.

Currently Indonesia is also in the process of establishing a National Centre for a Warning System on Disasters.

Furthermore, Indonesia pays special attention to the international cooperation in the disaster management support. In this connection, I would like to reiterate Indonesia's commitment to continuously support the work of UN SPIDER in the future, including by hosting one of the United Nations SPIDER Regional Support Offices in the region.

Mr. Chairman, on the issue of nuclear power sources in outer space, my delegation followed closely with the discussion of this issue during the forty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee this year. Indonesia in particular pays great attention to the safety aspects of nuclear power sources and welcomes the adoption of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Sources Applications in Outer Space by IAEA, April 2009. This Framework shows the successful collaboration of the work of this Committee with other United Nations bodies in order to maintain the peaceful uses of outer space.

My delegation fully supports the work of the Committee on ensuring the peaceful nature of outer space activities.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Indonesia for her statement.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak under this agenda item in this morning's session?

I see none.

We will, therefore, continue our consideration of agenda item 8, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Eighth Session, this afternoon.

**Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session (agenda item9)**

Distinguished delegates, I would like to begin now our consideration of agenda item 9, Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Ninth Session.

Before giving the floor for statements, I would like to note that the views of delegations in the Legal Subcommittee are contained in document A/AC.105/942.

I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 160 to 172 of the Report of the Legal Subcommittee which reflects the views of delegations and recommendations of the Subcommittee regarding its agenda for the fiftieth session to be held in 2011.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic, Professor Vladimir Kopal.

**Mr. V. KOPAL** (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman for your giving me the floor. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of the Czech Republic, I intend to make some comments on the agenda item 9, Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Ninth Session.

But prior to doing it, I would like to convey to you our congratulations at your election as the new Chairman of the COPUOS for the biennium period 2010-2011.

Our satisfaction and greetings are also addressed to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman, to the newly appointed United Nations Expert on Space Applications, Mr. Doi, and Mr. Niklas Hedman, the Secretary of the Legal Subcommittee and now Secretary of the COPUOS, and all staff members who assisted efficiently the Legal

Subcommittee during its forty-ninth session or are now servicing the fifty-third session of the COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, the Czech Republic considers it important to continue the efforts of the COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee, to strengthen and widen the present legal basis of space activities by increasing the number of States and international organizations adhering to the United Nations space treaties.

We particularly welcome that the main space law instrument, the 1967 Outer Space Treaty crossed the number of 100 States Parties. This is why our delegation watches with great interest the consideration of the agenda item of the Legal Subcommittee, Status and Application of the United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, and the deliberations of the Working Group on this item, led by the distinguished representative of Greece, Dr. Vassilios Cassapoglou.

In our opinion, particularly useful was the discussion relating to the fifth United Nations space treaty, the 1979 Moon Agreement which followed the submission of the document A/AC.105/C.2/L.272 by seven States Parties to the Moon Agreement, that outlined the benefits of adherence to the Agreement. This discussion should continue at the fiftieth session of the Legal Subcommittee by assessing whether or to what extent existing international rules adequately addressed the present and expected activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Czech Republic already had the opportunity for welcoming the development of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Sources Applications in Outer Space. We recognize the merit of the view held by some delegations that a revision of the 1992 Nuclear Power Sources Principles would not be appropriate at present. But we also agree with the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee which was endorsed by the COPUOS and the General Assembly to retain this issue on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. During its next discussions, the recommendations included in the Safety Framework might be considered with the view of the possibility of their implementation in the 1992 United Nations Principles, as and when they are re-opened for review and revision.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Czech Republic also supports the efforts of the Chairman of the Working Group of the Legal Subcommittee on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, Professor José Monseratt Filho of Brazil, to reach some realistic progress in discussing that long-standing issue. This is why the conclusions agreed by the Working Group

deserve our attention including the initiative to invite the International Institute of Space Law/European Centre for Space Law to deal at their next Symposium for the benefit of the fiftieth session of the Legal Subcommittee with the topic of the "Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space" under present conditions.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Czech Republic has been satisfied that an important step in dealing with the problem of space debris has been made by the adoption of the COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines which were endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 62/217 of 21 December 2007. In this way, a useful basis was also created for considering legal aspects of space debris in the Legal Subcommittee.

Therefore, we also welcomed the inclusion of the present point, General Exchange of Information on National Mechanisms Relating to Space Debris Mitigation Measures, as a step that should lead to a further goal on the way to an effective prevention and suppression of space debris. This is why the delegation of the Czech Republic proposed at the forty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee to include in the list of items for possible discussion at subsequent sessions of the Legal Subcommittee, the review of the legal aspects of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the COPUOS with a view to transforming them into a set of principles on space debris, to be elaborated by the Legal Subcommittee and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Such a new set of principles would extend the existing series of principles which were adopted during the period of 1980s and 1990s in relation to certain categories of space activities. As included in the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, such principles have only recommendatory force and, therefore, they are often qualified as softball(?). Nevertheless, they might create a favourable climate for the development of space law governing important categories of space activities and essentially contribute to the protection of the space environment.

The last item that our delegation wants to comment now in this statement is general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The discussion on this item as it developed in the Legal Subcommittee during the last years, particularly in a Working Group efficiently guided by Professor Irmgard Marboe of Austria, may be assessed as the highlight of the present work of the Legal Subcommittee. It is expected that the Group will conclude its work by producing a comprehensive report that might lead to adopting a special resolution

on the subject by the United Nations General Assembly, as well the launching State resolution in 2004 and registration practice resolution in 2007.

All these outcomes reflected in three special General Assembly resolutions would then document the efforts of the COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee for further developing the legal regime of space activities during the first decade of the twenty-first century.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank you distinguished representative of the Czech Republic, Professor Kopal, for your very interesting and useful information you conveyed to us during your statement.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Austria, Mr. Johannes Aigner.

**Mr. J. AIGNER (Austria):** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Austria would like to express its appreciation for the work done at the forty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee and we welcome the adoption of the report.

Austria would also like to pay tribute to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat for their excellent work throughout the session.

Mr. Chairman, during this year's session of the Legal Subcommittee, substantive discussions on various agenda items took place, in particular on national space legislation and on the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.

Under the agenda item, General Exchange of Information on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, the Working Group, chaired by Professor Irmgard Marboe, continued its work.

A large number of delegations actively participated in the discussion on this item by exchanging views and informing on their national space legislation.

Austria is pleased to see substantial progress in this Working Group and is looking forward to adopting a comprehensive report next year.

Let me take this opportunity to underline the importance of the work already achieved and expected to be achieved next year.

The exchange on the national space legislation is of particular value to States that are about to draft or to review their national space laws.

Austria is currently in the process of drafting its own space law. In this context, the discussions in the Legal Subcommittee provided valuable inputs.

This year's Symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law on the topic "National Space Legislation" complemented the ongoing work and substantially contributed to the discussion.

Under the agenda item, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, a particularly interesting discussion took place where specific pertinent legal issues related to the treaties on outer space were raised.

The Working Group under the chairmanship of Jean-François Mayence, established a good basis for next year's discussion. We are looking forward to an in-depth discussion on these issues in 2011.

In this context, the Working Group also dealt with the low number of ratifications of the Moon Agreements. In the margins of the Legal Subcommittee, Austria organized a Seminar on the Moon Agreement. Let me thank all delegations for their interest and support to the Seminar. In an informal setting, participants had the opportunity to openly address their views on the Moon Agreement. In a very lively and intensive debate, many arguments were raised which ultimately helped us to better understand the reasons for the low number of ratifications.

Mr. Chairman, there are still many other important challenges in the field of space law that have been raised during the discussions of the forty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee such as space debris, commercialization of the space sector or nuclear power sources. There is a need to further address these issues with a view to strengthen existing legal regimes and to discuss the need for new regimes.

In concluding, let me emphasize that the Austrian delegation will continue to provide strong support to the work and the deliberations of the Legal Subcommittee as well as to the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

In this spirit, we are looking forward to a productive and rewarding future session of the Legal Subcommittee.

And, furthermore, I would like to cordially invite delegations to the traditional Austrian reception, the so-called Heurigen, on Tuesday, 15 June, at 7.30 p.m. And we kindly ask delegates to forward to the Austrian delegation, the exact number of participants by Monday, 1.00 p.m. at the latest as to be able to prepare our Heurigen properly.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mr. Aigner for your statement on behalf of Austria.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of China, Mr. Lipeng Zhou.

**Mr. L. ZHOU (China)** (*interpretation from Chinese*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS has for over half a century made outstanding contributions to the expansion and development of space law. The Chinese appreciate the long-standing and tireless efforts of the Subcommittee and notes with satisfaction the continuing spirit of innovation and collaboration at its forty-ninth session and the success achieved.

Mr. Chairman, the present outer space legal regime based on the five United Nations outer space treaties ensures the right direction for the development of human activities in outer space. The regime constitutes an important institutional guarantee for the building of a harmonious outer space. At a time of new and vigorous development in space activities, existing space law should continue to be disseminated and correctly implemented and its status and role enhanced.

We support the Legal Subcommittee efforts to expand the universalization of existing space laws. We encourage more States to join the five United Nations outer space treaties and those intergovernmental organizations engaged in outer space activities to accept the rights and obligations provided in these treaties.

Since few countries have acceded to the Moon Agreement, we welcome that the Subcommittee continue to hold Working Group meetings and thematic seminars to augment States understanding of the Agreement. We hope to see the Legal

Subcommittee focus on studying practical issues of significance that are in keeping with progress in space activities so as to ensure that existing space law keep up with the times.

To this end, we support continuing in-depth study of practical matters in the implementation of the five outer space treaties and we endorse the extension of the mandate of the Working Group on the five outer space treaties.

We welcome that the Subcommittee further review the definition and delimitation of outer space, taking into account all issues involved with sub-orbit, flights and aerospace flights.

We welcome the results obtained at this stage by the Working Group on National Legislation and believe that communication and exchange in national legislation will contribute to the uniform understanding of existing space law among States, thus promoting is correct in-depth and comprehensive implementation.

Mr. Chairman, while endeavouring to enhance existing space law, we should also realize that with the rapid evolution of outer space activities, the five outer space treaties are no longer adequate in dealing with all kinds of new problems and challenges. To fill such gaps, we should, with courage and determination, and while maintaining the stable basis of the basic framework of existing space law, actively seek the improvement and consolidation of space law.

China appreciates the useful endeavours to this end made by the international community and lends it support to creating enabling conditions for the formulation of an integrated outer space treaty.

We welcome the COPUOS set of principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space, jointly drawn up by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the IAEA, as well as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of COPUOS.

We endorse the Subcommittee's efforts to maintain communication with other related entities actively working for inter-country exchange and encouraging States to set up national mechanisms to implement the above-mentioned instruments.

We appreciate the efforts made by UNIDROIT to draw up a Protocol on Space Assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. We endorse continued examination and

review of the draft Protocol by the Subcommittee as well as its active part and constructive role in the formulation of the Protocol.

In our view, drafting the Protocol is an active endeavour to enable space law to adapt to the trend of the commercialization and privatization of space activities. A precious opportunity for space law to achieve new development.

Within the framework of existing space law as a basis, we should work to bring about the interaction and coordinated development of the Protocol, together with existing space law.

China has long advocated for the improvement of space law and for the rule of law in space and has made unremitting efforts to this end. We believe that the development of space law is relevant to the future of humankind, a matter concerning the whole of mankind, well worth focusing the attention of the international community.

For the sake of a tomorrow of common prosperity, participation of developing countries in space legislation is imperative. Their legitimate needs have to be taken into consideration and their rights and interests in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space safeguarded.

Mr. Chairman, the Chinese Government has always pursued the shared aspiration of the international community for a peaceful and stable state of rule of law in outer space. We are ready to work with all countries in a spirit of responsibility for humankind's future and together seize the opportunities offered, meet the challenge and make greater contributions to the building of an outer space of peaceful development and common prosperity.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

We will continue our consideration of agenda item 9, Report of the Legal Subcommittee, this afternoon.

### **Technical presentations**

And now distinguished delegates, we will start with the technical presentations.

I would now like to give the floor to Mr. Fernando Suárez of Ecuador who will make a

presentation entitled "Fifth Space Conference of the Americas: Regional Agreement for Security and Human Development: Perspectives for the Future".

You have the floor Sir.

**Mr. F. SUÁREZ** (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate the congratulations that the Ambassador conveyed to you personally Sir and all the officers that were elected for this session.

At the same time, I reiterate our word of thanks and congratulations to Ambassador Ciro Arévalo, who has completed his two-year term.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, for which Ecuador was in charge in 2006, has actively participated in this important World Forum in both Subcommittees and in the plenary of COPUOS, either via the Mission, the Diplomatic Mission of Ecuador and also through the Pro Tempore Secretariat.

So I am most pleased to address the members of the Committee in my capacity with the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth Space Conference. And this perfectly supplements the very essence of the management at the regional level of the Pro Tempore Secretariat in keeping with the guidelines established in the San Francisco de Quito Declaration and the Plan of Action. These are the mandates emanating from the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas.

I will start off my presentation in this manner by describing the Fifth CEA and Regional Space Negotiations for Safety and Human Development and looking towards the future.

I will briefly make reference to the fact that we need this hemispheric forum in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the scientific applications of space activities and subsequently I will refer to the activities within the Secretariat in order to promote regional projects that have a high social content in a variety of activities having an impact on the development of our countries.

In respect of the track record, there are many benefits that mankind has derived from outer space, its exploration and use, but as is the case for many technological areas, the developing countries have had less chances of benefiting from the scientific and technological applications of space activities.

To counteract that, starting in the 1990s, we set up the Space Conference of the Americas as a Cooperation Forum, we are going to gather the other countries of the region in order to promote the application and the peaceful uses of space technology in the interest of security, safety and development of the developing countries.

This has to be placed in the proper context, all starting with the initiatives that the United Nations undertook since 1957 as a result of the major space activities that the main world powers were developing at that point in time and the peaceful uses of the outer space activities of 1959, in particular in the United Nations work. And then we had conferences on space exploration, UNISPACE I in 1968, UNISPACE II in 1982, and the resolutions of the General Assembly starting in 1988 on international cooperation for the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. We have thus established and strengthened into regional cooperation systems and via the United Nations this was possible.

In this context, the Space Conference of the Americas was considered as a regional forum based on the main legal instruments that we have that govern space-related activities. The Space Conference of the Americas met on five occasions. The very first time was held in 1990 in Costa Rica. We identified programmes and projects for science and technology on that occasion that are of assistance to social and economic development of the countries of the region.

With the First Space Conference, we created our hemisphere approach for space activities and it was then that the initiative was first borne in mind and given consideration in international fora.

The Second Conference came about in Chile in 1993 with an onset of a systematic approach of the hemisphere-wide space approach.

Then we decided to prepare standards, to make a contribution to the development of space. We institutionalized a mechanism for follow-up and this is the Pro Tempore Secretariat, and we agreed a thematic agenda, the relevant features of which were reflected in the Santiago de Chile Declaration.

The Third Space Conference of the Americas was held in Uruguay in 1996 and on this occasion topics such as science and technology, sustainable development and the environment, as well as education and communication were addressed and, furthermore, we developed and analyzed issues having to do with international space law.

On the occasion of this Conference, where we had advisory services of the International Support Group, the Punte de Lista(?) Declaration was signed in order to follow-up the commitments entered into and to regulate the system of the CEA.

The Fourth Space Conference came about in Cartagena de las Indias. There, countries focused on regional and worldwide cooperation in order to step up social and economic development of our nations by having closer contacts with experts and this with the intention of underpinning multilateral projects.

As a result of this Conference, the Declaration of Cartagena de las Indias was agreed and you will see that in the Conferences of the Americas in Costa Rica, Chile, Uruguay and Colombia, the regional body made progress in terms of its operation and consolidation as the forum of the hemisphere for the discussion of space-related topics.

As for the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, and the Ecuadorian tenure, so to speak, we have made efforts to better address the United Nations activities. The Government of Ecuador was responsible for organizing the Fifth Conference, bearing in mind the following essential elements: the contribution of the Space Conferences to world space development, how to give this mechanism continuity as an indispensable tool to achieve progress in the area in these subjects, then how to institutionalize this on a greater scale, international cooperation in this regard and intra-regional dialogue, how to best furthermore move towards a regional body, giving momentum to the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference, UNISPACE III.

Furthermore, how to build support for the standards and norms that regulate outer space within the United Nations standards, strict compliance with the norms of international space law, the relevance of the work done by COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies and the effective work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations.

The Fifth Space Conference of the Americas was held in Quito, from 28-29 July 2006, and it was regional agreement for human development that was the main topic, under the auspices of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations and of the European Space Agency as well as UNESCO.

The afore-mentioned Conference concentrated on five areas: the development of space legislation, distance learning and access to knowledge, tele-medicine and epidemiology prevention, and mitigation

of disasters and protection of the environment and the cultural heritage in order to promote the use of space technology to give support to the high social content programmes for the region, bearing in mind the Declaration of the 2000 Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, along with the regional platform emanating from the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2001, and UNISPACE I, II and III, of course, the statements of the Conference of the Americas and plans of action and other legal instruments on an international level.

As a result of the deliberations of the Fifth Conference of the Americas, the San Francisco de Quito Declaration was adopted and the Plan of Action reflecting the will of member States to move ahead jointly in terms of achieving progress in the adoption and application of space technology and giving momentum to sustainable development throughout the region.

In the area of development of space legislation, the following aspects and recommendations were referred to. A call was issued to members and observers of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas to join and accede to international treaties and conventions in this area intended to strengthen the legal regime that applies to the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Then there was a reference to the overriding part played by the United Nations basically via the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs because they make a permanent contribution to the development of space law. And we made special reference to the United Nations specialized agencies and the text adopted so far as these are major legal developments that have made a contribution to the progress of mankind.

Then the link was mentioned between the right to development and space law. And furthermore, the legal framework was discussed that would make a contribution to scientific and technological development. There was a recommendation to give further momentum to space law via implementation of academic programmes, of fora, of high-level workshops with the participation of significant legal experts from the region and beyond.

We encouraged any activities that would tend to create spaces for cooperation between space law centres and those of the region via interaction and exchange of information.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, in keeping with practices established on the occasion of the Second Conference, the host country of the last meeting was in charge of the Pro Tempore Secretariat up until the next Conference. That is why Ecuador has been in charge since 2006. So the Headquarters is in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration by virtue of an Agreement entered into with the other Ministries.

As for the structure, the Pro Tempore of the Fifth Conference is a permanent planning structure. There is a Technical and Scientific Committee. There is a Legal and Political Affairs Committee, one in charge of Cooperation as well as an Administrative Support Structure. At a national level, in excess of 30 national institutions and authorities cooperate since they are active in this field. And on an international level, the International Space Conference of the Americas and the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Conference, Colombia, has cooperated. As for the Sixth Conference, Mexico will be hosting this event and, of course, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has also helped us considerably. We have a Memorandum of Understanding, and also with the Centre for Training in Science and Space Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean and other international bodies and space agencies.

The results achieved in terms of developing space legislation over the four years of our term, in completion of the mandate that is contained in the San Francisco de Quito Declaration and the Plan of Action of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, we have had activities on each of the thematic subjects identified during the Fifth Conference, distance learning, tele-medicine, and tele-epidemiology, protection of the environment and of our cultural heritage, prevention and mitigation of disasters, and development of space legislation.

As for space legislation, and the international aspects, the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth Conference, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations, held in Quito, in August 2007, in the context of the World Space Week, a Workshop on the Significance of Space Legislation on an International Scale, and in August 2008, there was a Workshop on Legislation and New Challenges, with the participation of major legal experts. We had a Workshop on Space Legislation, applied to climate change and food security on 26 and 27 May 2010.

Thus, we have institutionalized the Intergovernmental Group of Experts of the Fifth Conference of the Americas. With the support of the

Office for Outer Space Affairs, there were four meetings with the International Expert Group of the Conference and the Troika in Quito Galapagos in Quinca(?) on 27 and 28 March of this year in Quinca.

As a result of which, a series of important documents were signed that have the Strategic Guidelines to be used to bolster regional mechanisms for cooperation in space-related activities.

It should be noted that we have participation in the Group of Experts of Ambassador Raimundo González, who chairs this Group, Ambassador Ciro Arévalo, Ambassador Walther Lichem, Dr. Sergio Camacho, and Mauricio Feo(?). All of them have made a huge contribution to this Group.

We had a follow-up mechanism group established. The Pro Tempore Secretariat bringing together the present, the past and the future Secretariats so that we have institutionalized the Space Conference of the Americas as the main multilateral forum in our hemisphere to promote and develop space activities.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat has prepared a first publication "The Space Conference of the Americas" is the total. This promote the peaceful use of outer space and space applications for the benefit of the development of all our hemisphere and it was distributed during the celebration of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee here in Vienna. It is the very first publication. It, therefore, is a landmark in terms of the Fifth Conference and the Secretariat has actively participated in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, basically the Legal Subcommittee, and other international fora where the topic was discussed.

We have supported major initiatives such as that of Ambassador Ciro Arévalo' former initiative on a space policy for the future. And the Secretariat participated in International Space Law workshops to develop space policy also such as the one that was organized by the Centre Teaching Space Applications, CRETEAL. Mexico was the venue of that and there was another one in Colombia held in Bogotá, April 2010.

Finally, the Secretariat negotiated and signed several international agreements with international bodies and authorities such as CRETEAL and the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

I have very little time left so because of time constraints I will immediately now describe the prospects for the future as part of the Conference of the

Americas exercise and those that we have discussed and given thought to.

We have to avoid duplication of efforts. We have to appropriately coordinate projects and activities in connection with the space-related activities and the interregional systems and, therefore, there is a great need for coordination between the space agencies, international bodies, regional teaching centres as well.

To link the Conference of the Americas with special organizations and programmes of the United Nations, ITU, UNDP, UNICEF, OPS, United Nations University and the like and with global networks for space applications and the scientific networks that we have in Latin America to bring about the Pro Tempore CEA integration in international fora so as to bring about viable exchange of experience on an international level.

The Secretariat, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, might usefully bring together our organization and the Conference of African Leaders for the development of science and technology for development purposes and also the Asia and Pacific Organization as well as the European Space Agency and CITAL(?). There has been close coordination there. We should strengthen the regional commitment of the member countries of the Conference and discharge the duties and responsibilities of the Pro Tempore Secretariat to cooperate with the United Nations and the Office for Outer Space Affairs and identify countries that might act as donor countries for space projects, able to make a financial contribution to high social content projects in the region and thus develop the activities of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Conference of the Americas to develop a specific methodology and procedures to come forward with a method to select and assess projects to be coordinated with the Pro Tempore Secretariat and that require international cooperation and support.

There are, of course, quite a few other suggestions but in the interest of time, I will drop those and I will complete my statement by informing you that the Secretariat is preparing yet another publication that will be available for the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas in Mexico and that will be making a major contribution to this experience that we now have in the region.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished speaker from Ecuador for his presentation.

I have to inform you that because of the time constraints, we postpone the presentation of Japan for the afternoon. May I ask that their presentation last exactly 20 minutes. So I would like to have a mechanism to expand the time because all the information you provided is important and it is interesting but respecting the time, the schedule and respecting the time of others, I would like you to ask to concentrate the presentations to no maximum than 20 minutes.

I now give the floor to the Secretariat for an announcement please.

**Mr. N. HEDMAN** (Secretary, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Secretariat would just like to very briefly introduce a non-paper that was circulated in all the pigeonholes yesterday afternoon. It is a non-paper provided by the Secretariat in consultation with the members of the Bureau that forms the so-called G15 Group and the non-paper comprises of two pages and relates to organizational matters and enhancing the efficiency of COPUOS and its Subcommittees.

On the first page of this non-paper, delegations will find a review of a background of what was discussed and eventually decided at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee earlier this year, in particular through its Working Group of the Whole on certain measures that could be instituted to enhance the organization of work of both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, but also the Legal Subcommittee and COPUOS.

On Page 2, and the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau members, have provided three bullet points, three elements that could be considered by delegations for implementation already next year at the 2011 sessions of the respective bodies, which means the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee and COPUOS.

Lastly, there is also at the end of Page 2, a proposal for consideration next year at the Legal Subcommittee session and COPUOS session and it is a proposal to request to the Secretariat to make a report, an assessment on the use of unedited transcripts. As you recall we have for the Legal Subcommittee and COPUOS and this assessment would be made in view, of course, of balancing the usefulness of having recording the debate but also cost implications because they are quite costly these transcripts and to look into the use in the United Nations of digital recordings.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, this is food for thought for delegations to consider over the weekend.

As you will recall next week under agenda item, Other Matters, we have already foreseen a discussion on the organizational matters, as requested by the Committee at its session in 2009. The Secretariat, with your permission, will try its best to advance agenda item 16 on Other Matters specifically to the points on organizational matters so if possible we could start such a discussion in plenary already on Tuesday next. We will monitor carefully the requests for statements under the various plenary items but we would endeavour to bring up the organizational matters in plenary to have a first review at the beginning of next week and then, of course, continue throughout Thursday. There might be need for informal consultations within that time frame. So with your permission, Mr. Chairman, there might be such measures in the agenda for next week.

Thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mr. Hedman for your information.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Committee. Before doing so, I would like to inform delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon.

We will continue item 5, General Exchange of Views, to hear statements requested for. We will re-open item 7 to hear a statement requested for. At the same time, we will continue our consideration on agenda item 8, Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its Forty-Seventh Session. We will continue our consideration of agenda item 9, Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its Forty-Ninth Session, and we will begin consideration of agenda item 10, Spin-Off Benefits of Space Technology: Review of Current Status.

Time permitting, we will begin consideration of agenda item 11, Space and Society.

There will be three technical presentations because the first will be Japan, the one that we just postponed. The second one by the representative of the United States of America, Space Foundation "An Introduction to the Space Foundation". The third one by Turkey on "Turkey to be \_\_\_\_\_(?) Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey".

Following the afternoon session at 6.00 p.m., a reception will be hosted by the Asia-Pacific Space Corporation Organization, APSCO, at the Mozart Room at the VIC Restaurant.

Now delegates are cordially invited to attend a reception offered by Japan, starting now in two minutes, at the Permanent Mission of Japan, located at the premises of the Japan Permanent Mission, Andromeda Tower, Donau City Strasse 6, behind the VIC. Please bring your VIC passes with you.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

With this information, I adjourn the meeting until 3.00 p.m. this afternoon.

*The meeting adjourned at 12.58 p.m.*