

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee**

Unedited transcript

765th Meeting

Monday, 31 March 2008, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. V.Kopal (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.13 a.m.

Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

Ms. M. OTHMAN: (*United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs*): Good morning distinguished delegates. I am pleased and honoured to welcome you all to the Vienna International Centre and now declare open the 47th session and 765th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

As you are all aware, the Subcommittee will shortly elect its Chairman for a two-year term in accordance with the agreement reached at the forty-ninth session of the Committee in 2006.

With the Subcommittee's permission, I will continue to preside over this meeting until the new Chairman has been duly elected, at which time it will be my pleasure to invite him to assume the Chair. However, before commencing the election of its Chair, the Subcommittee should adopt its agenda for this session.

Adoption of agenda (agenda item 3)

Distinguished delegates, I would like to propose for your approval and adoption the provisional agenda for the session contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.269. This provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of the agreement reached at the 2007 session of the Committee which was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 62/217. Please note that the annotations are

not part of the agenda and that there is an indicative schedule of work in the annex of that document.

Now if I hear no objections, may I take it that the agenda is adopted?

It is so decided.

Thank you.

Election of the Chairman (agenda item 2)

Distinguished delegates, I would now like to turn to the election of the Chairman. I wish to inform delegations that in paragraph 51 of its resolution 61/111 of 14 December 2006, the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the Bureau of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2008-2009 and agree that the Committee and its Subcommittees at the beginning of their sessions in 2008 should conduct the election of the officers agreed upon by the Committee at its fiftieth session.

I would also recall for delegations that at that session in 2006 the Committee agreed that Professor Vladimir Kopal of the Czech Republic should be elected Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for a two-year term from its 2008 session.

Therefore, unless there is any objection, may I take it that the Subcommittee would wish to elect Professor Vladimir Kopal as its Chairman for a two-year term from 2008?

I see no objection.

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.



It is so decided.

I warmly congratulate Professor Vladimir Kopal on his election and would now warmly invite him to assume the Chair.

Statement by the Chairman (agenda item 4)

Mr. V. KOPAL (Czech Republic) (Chairman): Firstly I would like to thank Madam Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations for her kind guidance of my election. Of course, needless to say how happy I am that the result has been positive.

I would also like to thank all delegates, all Heads of Delegations and members of the delegations, as well as observers and friends here meeting in this Conference Room for your confidence and I will gladly rely on your support during the session. As to me, I will try to do my best as I did already in the past to meet your expectations but, of course, the result of our considerations will very much depend on the close cooperation of all of us.

I also will rely on the Secretariat which as usual is very efficient and very helpful for our work to all the staff of the Office and, of course, its leader.

Well, let us now turn to our agenda, but prior to it I would like to say a few words concerning our dealings.

First of all, the question of participation of non-members in this session. I would like to inform the Subcommittee that I have received communications from the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Tunisia, requesting to participate in our meetings as observers. I would, therefore, suggest that in conformity with the practice, we invite those delegations to attend to the current session and to address the Subcommittee as appropriate. Of course, this is without prejudice to further requests of this nature from among other applicants and it does not involve any decision because it belongs to the full Committee, to the COPUOS, concerning this status. It is a courtesy we customarily extend to such delegations.

If there is no objection, we will be proceeding accordingly.

I see none.

It is so decided.

I would also like to inform delegations that I have received a communication from EUTELSAT IGO to participate in the meeting of the current session of the Legal Subcommittee as observer. I would, therefore, like to suggest that in conformity with past practice we invite this organization to attend the current session and to address the Subcommittee as appropriate. This is, of course, again without prejudice to further requests of this nature.

If there is no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

Again I see none.

It is so decided.

Now about the programme of our work.

Distinguished delegates, this session of the Legal Subcommittee should consider the following four items as regular agenda items. As everybody knows, we have three categories of items. The first category are regular items. And, of course, when considering these items we should take into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries.

The first of these regular items is agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views, during which delegations may provide general information about their activities related to space law and to highlight any issues that would be covered in greater detail under the agenda item.

The second regular item is item 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. With respect to item 6, the Legal Subcommittee would reconvene its Working Group on this item under the Terms of Reference agreed upon by the Subcommittee at its session in 2001. At that session, the Subcommittee had agreed that the Working Group would meet to consider the status of the treaties, review of their implementation and obstacles to their universal acceptance, as well as the promotion of space law, especially through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

At its forty-first session in 2002, the Legal Subcommittee also agreed that the Working Group would review any new similar issues that might be raised in discussion in the Working Group, provided those issues fell within its existing mandate.

At its forty-sixth session, the Subcommittee agreed to extend the mandate of the Working Group

for one additional year. It was also agreed that the Subcommittee at its present session would review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond 2008.

The Working Group will continue to debate the issues raised in the questionnaire on the possible options for future development of international space law, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.259. Last year, the Working Group agreed that the Secretariat should prepare, for submission to the Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session under this item, a background paper on the current and future activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies, international and national rules governing those activities and information from States Parties to the Moon Agreement about the benefits of adherence to that Agreement.

The Working Group also agreed that the background paper should be passed primarily on information provided by member States on those matters.

To date, the Secretariat has not received any information from member States concerning this matter. The background information contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.271 is a contribution from the Secretariat. The Working Group will have before it the document as ST/SPACE/11/Rev.2/Addendum 1, entitled "Update of the Status of International Agreements Relating to Activities in Outer Space".

And, at the same time, I would like to note that the Office has updated and published as a new edition of the booklet entitled "United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space and Related General Assembly Resolutions". The new edition includes some additional documents that were not published in prior editions of this very useful booklet.

The third regular item is agenda item 7, Information on the Activities of International Organizations Relating to Space Law. Under this item, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were invited to report to the Legal Subcommittee on their activities relating to space law. The reports that were received from international organizations by January 2008 are contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.270 and Addendum.

The fourth regular item is agenda item 8, Matters Relating to (a) the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, and (b) the Character and Utilization of the Geostationary Orbit Including Consideration of Ways and Means to Ensure the Rational and Equitable

Use of the Geostationary Orbit Without Prejudice to the Role of the International Telecommunication Union.

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 62/217, that was adopted last year, the General Assembly noted that the Legal Subcommittee would reconvene its Working Group on this item to consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The Working Group will have before it the following documents prepared by the Secretariat, at the request of the Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session in 2007:

(a) Questionnaire on possible legal issues with regard to aerospace objects, replies received from member States contained in Addendum 16 to the document A/AC.105/635. In connection with this document, I would like to inform you that the Office has received the submission of Azerbaijan to the questionnaire in late February. This submission will be published as a Conference Room Paper and then will appear in all languages of the United Nations in future addenda to the questionnaire;

(b) National legislation and practice relating to definition and delimitation of outer space contained in Addendum 3 to the document A/AC.105/865;

(c) Questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space, replies from member States contained in Addendum 1 to the document A/AC.105/889.

As to the second category of our items on our agenda, the Subcommittee should consider three single issue items for discussion.

The first single issue item for discussion is agenda item 9, Review and Possible Revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

The second single issue item is agenda item 10, Examination and review of the Developments Concerning the Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment.

And the third single issue item is agenda item 11, Capacity-Building in Space Law.

As to this third single issue item, in 2007, the Subcommittee agreed to include capacity-building in space law as a new single issue item on its agenda. At the present session, with a view to promoting

cooperation with, and assistance to, developing countries, and agreed to review the possibility of extending that item beyond the forty-seventh session.

At its forth-sixth session, The Subcommittee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue exploring the possibility of developing a curriculum for a basic clause on space law that could be used, in particular for the benefit of the developing countries, by initiating space law studies, as appropriate, in the activities of the Regional Centres on Space Science and Technology Education affiliated to the United Nations.

In order to fulfil that request, the Office organized the United Nations Expert Meeting on Promoting Education of Space Law, which was held in Vienna from 3 to 4 December of 2007. The Meeting aimed to prepare the basis for a curriculum for a basic clause on space law for the afore-mentioned Regional Centres. The report of this meeting is available in document A/AC.105/908.

Now about the item to be considered under a Work Plan. In 2007, the Subcommittee agreed to include general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. It will be item 12 as an item under the Four-Year Work Plan covering the period from 2008 to 2011.

The Subcommittee also agreed that a Working Group should be established to consider that item in 2009, 2010 and 2011. In accordance with this multi-year Work Plan, at its present session, the Subcommittee will consider presentations by member States of reports on their national legislation. Replies received from member States are contained in document A/AC.105/912.

Finally, new items. At this session, the Legal Subcommittee will also consider its proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session in 2009. In accordance with the agreed structure of the agenda of the Subcommittee, proposals can be submitted for consideration in the following categories, it means regular items, single issue items for discussions, one year only but as necessary it may also be extended, and items to be discussed under the multi-year Work Plan.

Now only I would like to mention the Symposium. A Symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law, which is now an independent organization, separate of its former parent body, the International Astronautical Federation, and

the European Centre for Space Law, and this Symposium will take place in the afternoons of Monday, 31 March, it is today, this afternoon, and Tuesday, 1 April, in this Conference Room, in Conference Room III. The title of the Symposium is, in my opinion interesting, and it reads "Legal Implications of Space Applications for Global Climate Change" and it will have this year, for the first time, two sessions. The first one deals with legal implications of space applications for climate change, principles and rules, and the second one, legal implications of space applications for climate change, institutions and instruments.

Now we should also decide on the establishment of Working Groups, as usual. I have already mentioned, and in accordance with paragraph 6 of the General Assembly resolution 62/2017 (217?), we should reconvene the Working Group under item 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. May I, therefore, propose that we now re-establish the Working Group on this agenda item under the able chairmanship of Mr. Vassilios Cassapoglou of Greece, who very ably led the work of this Working Group last year and before.

I see no objections.

It is so decided.

I extend to Mr. Cassapoglou my congratulations and warm wishes for the session of work this year.

In addition, in accordance with paragraph 7 of the General Assembly resolution 62/217, the Legal Subcommittee will this year again reconvene its Working Group on item 8 only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space. May I, therefore, propose that we now re-establish the Working Group on this agenda item under the able chairmanship of Professor José Monserrat Filho of Brazil? I do not see him yet but he will certainly arrive, who so ably led the work of this Working Group last year.

I see no objections.

It is so decided.

I extend to Mr. Monserrat Filho either during as soon as he, he is just coming in time. So I extend to Mr. Monserrat Filho my congratulations and warm wishes for the session of work of this year.

Mr. J. MONSERRAT FILHO (Brazil) (*interpretation from Spanish*): ... but I do not know whether I will have time. I would be very interested in doing this indeed, thinking about the time available to me.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat has just confirmed that they would take care of what ...

Mr. J. MONSERRAT FILHO (*interpretation from Spanish*): But in any event, I am very grateful for the confidence you have expressed in me and I hope that we will be able to work on this further. I would like to extend my congratulations to you on being re-elected Chairman of this. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are most welcome Professor José Monserrat Filho and, as I said, I am grateful for your congratulations although it is to me. Thank you very much.

Now still some rules to be reminded on the utilization of Conference Services. You will recall that in accordance with practice over the past years, the Subcommittee has agreed that a flexible organization of work should continue to serve as the basis for organizing the work of the Subcommittee. I would once again like to propose that the Subcommittee adopt a similar flexible organization of work to serve as the basis for organizing the work of this present session.

Are there any objections to proceeding in this manner, as we did last year and the year before?

I see none.

It is so decided.

Now, something about organizational matters. I would like now to turn to this point. General Assembly resolution 32/71 requires that members of each United Nations body be informed at the beginning of each session of the resources available to it.

I would like to inform you of the arrangements made for this session of the Legal Subcommittee. This session is scheduled to be held from 31 March to 11 April 2008. A total number of 20 meetings are expected to be held. Conference Room III and also Conference Room VII and also Rooms C0713 and C0727 on this floor are available for use by the session. Simultaneous interpretation is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Sound recordings will be made for the plenary meetings in the original language and in English and unedited verbatim transcripts will be made

available following this session of the Subcommittee in all the official languages of the United Nations.

Please note that in the Annex to its resolution 56/242, the General Assembly adopted guidelines on limiting the duration of meetings, including the following: (a) meetings should normally be held during regular meeting hours, namely from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. on working days; and (b) intergovernmental bodies should undertake a review of their meeting patterns and reporting cycles and in coordination with the Conference Services, adjust their meeting requests for subsequent sessions accordingly.

In accordance to the above for the last few years, the budget of the United Nations has placed a number of constraints and restrictions on the capacity of Conference Services to deliver services as they did in the past, in particular unscheduled meetings, ad hoc informal consultations, meetings beyond regular hours, meetings on non-working days and extended meetings or sessions will most likely not be serviced by Conference Services.

I would also like to remind the delegates of the General Assembly request to cut down on the length of reports issued by the Secretariat, including the report of intergovernmental bodies. I would, therefore, like to emphasize that with regard to the current session of the Subcommittee, the Secretariat will endeavour to further shorten the length of the report in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary-General without affecting its quality or content. I would, therefore, ask for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Finally, delegates are requested to turn mobile telephones off when entering any Conference Room. I underline "when entering any Conference Room" not during the Conference Room session. Mobile phones switched on standby seriously interfere with the sound system in conference rooms and can affect the quality of interpretation and some recordings. I strongly urge you to please switch off your mobile phones when entering this room. Thank you.

I would now like to outline a tentative schedule for the next meetings.

This morning we shall shortly proceed with the general exchange of views. This afternoon we will continue with the general exchange of views. I remind you that starting at 4.00 p.m. the first part of the Symposium on Legal Implications of Space Applications for Global Climate Change will be held in

this room. The Symposium is being co-organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law. I hope that we will have the Presidents of both these institutions here in this room during the session and apparently they are already here. We would like to welcome both of them. The second part of the Symposium will take place in this Conference Room tomorrow afternoon.

I would also like to inform delegates that at 6.00 p.m. today following the first of the Symposium, there will be a reception organized by the IISL and ECSL in the Vienna International Centre Restaurant. I think it will be as usual in the Mozart Room which is located on the Ground Floor of the 'F' Building.

Are there any questions or comments regarding the schedule of work I have just outlined?

I see none. We will proceed accordingly.

Prior to starting the general exchange of views, I would like also to remind you that an invitation has been distributed this morning for a reception that will be offered by the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in the building of our Permanent Mission, not here in the Restaurant, but in the building of our Permanent Mission, on Wednesday at 7.00 p.m. And the best connection, of course, unless you use your own cars, is by Metro and it will be, from here, by Metro Line U1 and to change at Schwedenplatz or you can do it also at Karlsplatz, but Schwedenplatz is more appropriate, it is shorter, to U4 and step down at Metro station Heizing, Heizing because it is on the same street and it is the shortest distance from our Mission, from the building of the Mission of the Czech Republic. And I was assured by the Representative of the Czech Republic that all participants of the Conference, it means including the delegations, the observers, and, of course, the whole staff, will be most welcome.

General exchange of views (agenda item 5)

So now let us now start item 5, it means the general exchange of views. And I have two delegations on my list of speakers for this morning. I have the first speaker, yes, Greece requested for having the floor now.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Yes, thank you very much Chairman. But first of all Chairman, I would like to express our great pleasure at seeing you re-elected Chair, yes, let me put it this way, the Chair of this august meeting of the Legal Subcommittee, which,

I think, has an awful lot to do but I think it is a fantastic work. And I am very pleased but I do not think we have yet done it so I hope whole heartedly that we can make a great effort to make progress in our work so that we can achieved slightly more tangible progress and through our friend and colleague, through you, I would like to express the gratitude of my country to see you being Chair here and I am pleased that also that my own re-election to this particular body. And I think the longer serving here will know that it has been 10 years that I have chaired this Working Group.

Further, Chair, through you, I should like to say to the United Kingdom but also to Sri Lanka, I would like to express our condolences on the death of Sir Arthur Clark who was the father of telecommunications, the spiritual father of satellite telecommunications. He died just a few days ago, and, through you, I should like to express our deep sense of loss of his departing. Sir Arthur was an important part of humanity. And, for protocol reasons, I should also like to express these condolences directly to the United Kingdom and to Sri Lanka which had been his chosen residence for more than 20 years. Might I appeal to you to hold a minute's silence in memory of Sir Arthur Clark?

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Yes, thank you very much to the distinguished representative of Greece for your contribution. I would like to congratulate you on being re-elected to chair the Working Group on the Status of the Three (Five?) Outer Space Treaties and I am sure that the Working Group will continue under your able guidance to be very effective in its deliberations.

My thanks also for your very apt _____ (?) comments and I should like to thank you for reminding us about Sir Arthur Clark because Sir Arthur was indeed a great pioneer in the field of the outer space. He was very wise and at the same time I think he was a poet when it came to outer space affairs and I can remember his taking part at the first Conference on Outer Space held in 1968 here in Vienna, he took part. And, of course, I also remember the films which were shot based on scenarios he had written and which were shown here during the Second Conference on Outer Space, if I remember correctly.

So now I would like to take up your suggestion and might we perhaps hold a moment's silence in memory of Sir Arthur Clark. Thank you.

Minute silence

Thank you.

(Continued in English) We have already started with our deliberations on item 5, it means general exchange of views, and I now give the floor to the first speaker on my list and it is the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. P. CABAN (Czech Republic): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Let me offer a number of comments on the work of the COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee in the legal field and on some items on the agenda of the Subcommittee, as endorsed by General Assembly resolution 62/217 on 21 December 2007. But prior to doing so, I would like, on behalf of the delegation of the Czech Republic to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this body in which you have played a significant role for many years, actually since the very beginning of its existence. We are convinced that you will successfully continue as its leader on so during the present period from 2008 to 2009.

We would also like to greet the newly appointed Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman, who had already demonstrated her capability in managing this important unit of the United Nations Secretariat earlier and recently returned to continue in this task.

Mr. Chairman, the delegations of the Czech Republic have always shared the philosophy that in the structure of COPUOS, the Legal Subcommittee has held a significant role to play, to study and to report on all the legal relevant aspects of international cooperation in space activities, in order to establish and develop a peaceful legal regime for outer space. The foundations of this regime were laid down during the second half of the twentieth century and they were incorporated in the United Nations Space Treaties and Principles. One of the main endeavours of the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee remains to increase the number of States and international organizations adhering to the United Nations Space Treaties. The present delegation of the Czech Republic fully supports these efforts and welcomes all new parties coming to enlarge the United Nations space law family.

The discussions in the Working Group and the status and application of the five United Nations space treaties under the able guidance of Dr. Vassilios Cassapoglou of Greece contribute for several years to fulfilling the mandate of the COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee in this area.

My delegation particularly welcomes that the Working Group, among other aspects, should now turn its attention to the fifth of the United Nations space treaties, the 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies. The Czech Republic belongs to the majority of countries which have not acceded to the United Nations Moon Agreement yet. Nevertheless, we are aware of the need for an adequate and timely regulation of the activities relating to the Moon and other celestial bodies of our solar system. Several space-faring powers recently declared they have plans for intensive exploration of the Moon, including manned flights around and to the Moon and establishment of stations there. A long time experience from the Antarctic area should be carefully studied in order to use it for similar efforts relating to the Moon and other celestial bodies of the solar system.

The question of why thus far the 1979 Moon Agreement has been remaining less attractive for States and international organizations than the other United Nations space instruments should be inquired in greater detail in order to fill the existing gap in the build up of the legal regime for outer space.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of definition and delimitation of outer space, which remains on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee as one of its regular items has been discussed for decades practically without any visible progress. My delegation appreciates that by the efforts of the Subcommittee, under the able guidance of Professor José Monserrat Filho of Brazil, a new impetus has been given to the discussions on this topic. The technological development in space and aviation brings some new aspects to this issue under the interest of priority(?) persons, both juridical and physical, also requires its new investigation. Due to the lack of any definition of outer space and to the delimitation of air and outer space by international law, States may be inclined to establish their own definitions of outer space and the upper limit of their sovereignty by national legislation. There is a certain risk that the terms of national laws will differ in this respect. Moreover, in the absence of any positive results within the COPUOS, the issue could be dealt with by other international bodies for their purposes and a solution for space purposes will thus be prejudged.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Czech Republic shares the view that it was a sound decision to keep the item examination and review of the developments concerning the draft Protocol on matters specific to space assets to the 2001 Convention on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. We are aware that discussions within the UNIDROIT and its working and

consultative bodies on this topic still continue. Therefore, my delegation would welcome the usual information on their progress by the distinguished observer of UNIDROIT. Our delegation continues supporting UNIDROIT to fulfil its aim in the space area as it already succeeded in the aviation and railway areas, thus completing its original project on the protection of international interests in mobile equipment.

Mr. Chairman, our agenda of this year also includes a new single issue item called "Capacity-Building in Space Law". The consideration of this topic should promote cooperation with, and assistance to, developing countries. But it is our conviction that such cooperation would be also beneficial to other countries for the development of their educational and research institutions in the field of space law. For this reason, our delegation recognizes the value of the decision of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to convene an Expert Meeting on Promoting Education in Space Law, that was effected on 3 and 4 December 2007 in Vienna. The elaboration of the draft curriculum and its modules by the Expert Group assisted by representatives of the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education has been an essential step in a longer process of building adequate capacities for education of space law in the world. In our opinion, the Legal Subcommittee should continue in these efforts and keep the item of capacity building on its agenda also for the next year.

Moreover, the delegation of the Czech Republic welcomes the plan of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to start this year the second series of United Nations Workshops on Space Law under the scope of the Programme on Space Applications. The first series of such Workshops, which was effected during the period from 2002 to 2006 brought positive results and it is desirable to further develop this experience.

Mr. Chairman, at its sixty-second session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in addition to its usual omnibus resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, a special resolution including recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and intergovernmental organizations in the registering space objects. This document resulted from intensive discussions on that topic in a special working group which was effectively led by Dr. Kai-Uwe Schrogel of Germany in accordance with the Work Plan. In this way, an example was offered how to develop and improve the legal regime of outer space when it is impossible to

reach consensus on elaborating any new regulatory instrument.

The Legal Subcommittee agreed on and the General Assembly endorsed the inclusion of a new item of this kind in the agenda to be considered in accordance with the Work Plan during the period 2008 to 2011. The aim of the new item, general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space sounds modest and the task for this year seems to be rather introductory. In spite of it, the delegation of the Czech Republic hopes that discussions on this topic will be equally productive, as was the case of the furthering Work Plan. In particular, the delegation of the Czech Republic expects that the consideration of this item in the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee will facilitate the decisions of a number of countries which now ponder the possibility to elaborate their national space laws in the near future.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of the Czech Republic for your presentation of the statement on behalf of the Czech Republic.

I have now on the list of speakers a second speaker on the general exchange of views, namely the distinguished representative of Canada, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. T. S. WOOD (Canada): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Canadian delegation would like to congratulate you for your election as Chairman for this forty-seventh session of the Legal Subcommittee. If the past is any indication, we are confident that under your chairmanship, the Legal Subcommittee will have a very successful session once again this year.

The Canadian delegation would also like to express its gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador González from Chile for his work at the helm of the Legal Subcommittee for the past two years.

Mr. Chairman, the continuous increase in space activities, either from States themselves or from private concerns, will present us with new and unique challenges with regard to the interpretation and implementation to the international legal framework governing such activities. While this legal framework can certainly be improved, Canada reiterates its strong support to the core United Nations conventions on outer space and welcomes initiatives aimed at strengthening them.

Canada trusts that the work of this Legal Subcommittee will ultimately contribute to building a more secure and accessible space environment.

In this respect, Canada looks forward to the day when the Committee starts to work on a scheme for space traffic management.

Canada also notes with approval recent General Assembly resolution 62/101 as the culmination of the excellent work of the Working Group on the Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects.

Mr. Chairman, space debris remains an increasing preoccupation as countries realize that the continuing increase in debris could render the space environment unusable. In that respect, Canada notes with approval the activities that have taken place last year, both in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS, and in the Plenary Committee, with regards to their adoption of Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the adoption of the Guidelines at the United Nations General Assembly in 2007. Canada wishes to congratulate once again those States involved in the creation of the Guidelines. Canada, like other nations, uses space for communications, research, remote sensing and other peaceful purposes. The Canadian delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its view that anything that threatens these uses should be avoided and to invite all space-faring countries to mitigate the creation of debris in outer space. We also support in principle the development of guidelines for space traffic management.

Mr. Chairman, Canada believes that COPUOS and its Subcommittees have a central role to play in responding to the challenges and opportunities posed by the international community's increased reliance on outer space. Canada favours the establishment of links between the various United Nations bodies with an interest in outer space, including the International Telecommunication Union, the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations General Assembly, particularly its First and Fourth Committees.

In particular, Canada notes with satisfaction the briefing of the Chair of COPUOS to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, which clarified the role and mandate of COPUOS, vis-à-vis, the Conference on Disarmament on Space Issues. Canada is encouraged that the important linkages

between the matters being examined in those fora is recognized.

We look forward to seeing further cooperation along these lines, particularly as such activity is supportive of the one United Nations initiative. The United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities is a useful coordination forum in this regard and consideration should be given to its expansion.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, the Canadian delegation notes with satisfaction that two new items have been added to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, namely capacity-building in space law and general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. It is the hope of the Canadian delegation that the exchange of information that will occur under these two items will bear fruit and reinforce both the acceptance and the implementation of the rules enshrined in the core United Nations conventions on outer space.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of Canada for your presentation of the statement on behalf of your country. I have observed that particularly one highlight should be perhaps repeated here or at least I should bring it once again to the attention of the Subcommittee, namely that the Canadian delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its view that anything that threatens these uses should be avoided, it means threaten the peaceful uses of outer space, and to invite all space-faring countries to mitigate the creation of debris in outer space. We also support in principal the development of guidelines for the space traffic management.

And I would also like to thank the distinguished representative of Canada for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I would also like to do so in relation to the statement of the representative of my own country. I forgot it. I apologize.

I now give the floor to the third speaker on my list of speakers to the distinguished representative of France.

Mr. V. TURCEY (France) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to express on behalf of my delegation our congratulations to you on your election to the Chair of the Subcommittee. We are convinced that your great experience in the area of space law will contribute to the success of the Subcommittee.

The French delegation would like to recall the importance that our country attaches to the work of the Space Committee and its Legal Subcommittee. It is at the heart of the development of conventional space law which is very rich in its content.

France greatly appreciates the sum total of space law and is working to improve its implementation on the basis of three fundamental principles. The first principle which, in our view, should govern the implementation of space law is free access for all to outer space for peaceful purposes. The second principle is maintaining the viability and integrity of satellites in orbit. The third principle consists in taking into account legitimate defence-related interests of States. These three principles guide the space policies of France at a time when it seems to us of paramount importance to guarantee the security of space activities to protect the environment and outer space resources that are becoming scarce.

The peaceful uses of outer space remain, for France, an essential objective in terms of international security. In this spirit, France welcomes the results of the recent work carried out by the Space Committee in the area of registration and in the area of space debris. These two initiatives have been approved by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-second session. France will continue giving special attention to the implementation by States of these two important texts.

These achievements show the Space Committee's interest in promoting specific measures of transparency and trust among States in their space-related activities.

As regards the review and possible revision of principles guiding the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, France welcomes the fact that two joint meetings were organized in June and October of last year allowing to forge a partnership between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS on the one hand, and the IAEA on the other hand. And this partnership has entered an active phase with the adoption in February of 2007 of a three-year work plan. Our position, which remains unchanged, is that the discussion of this issue in the Legal Subcommittee will closely depend on the progress made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the results that can be presented by the Joint Working Group to the Space Committee.

Taking into account the ongoing technical work, the French delegation believes that it would not be appropriate, at least not at this stage, to discuss

within this Legal Subcommittee any possible revision of the United Nations Principles governing the use of nuclear power sources. However, we would like to see this item retained on the agenda.

As we already did in the past, Mr. Chairman, the French delegation would like to recall that strengthening international space law should be the principle objective of the Subcommittee. For that reason, France is not in favour of starting work to draft an international convention that would bring together all existing legal texts in one single instrument, for example. Indeed, such an initiative would, on the one hand, risk considerably slowing down the work of the Subcommittee over a number of years because it would be extremely important and huge. On the other hand, such an initiative would scramble, in a way, or obscure the message of the Subcommittee which should, first and foremost, focus on broadening the number of States adhering to the existing treaties and improving the implementation of these treaties.

Mr. Chairman, we believe that this Subcommittee, whose work has already made a decisive contribution to the development of space law, should continue along this path which is very fruitful, trying to deepen, to the extent possible, in the light of the three principles that I have already mentioned, international space law.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I thank the distinguished representative of France for this statement on this item in our agenda. I have listened with great interest to the presentation of principles that your country is guided by in its space activities. Also I would like to highlight the importance of the beginning of giant work between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and the International Atomic Energy Agency in the area of the use of nuclear power sources. Obviously our Subcommittee is waiting patiently for the results that this joint work will bring forth before we make our own contribution.

Thank you very much once again and I would like to thank you personally for your congratulations addressed to me as Chairman of this Subcommittee. Thank you very much Sir.

(*Continued in English*) Yes, I understand that we no longer have any speaker that would be inscribed in the list of speakers for this morning's session. We will, of course, yes, sorry, I did not mention it. I now

give the floor to the distinguished representative of Austria.

Mr. T. LOIDL (Austria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Professor Kopal, let me congratulate you on your chairmanship of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2008 to 2009. We are confident that our work during this session and next year's session of the Subcommittee will greatly benefit from your skill and your experience.

I would also like to extend a very warm thanks to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Othman, and to her hardworking team for the very excellent and thorough preparation of this session. Considering the Office's comparatively small number of staff and its resources, we all the more appreciate their creativity in handling an increasing number of tasks and demands. All this deserves all our support and we will continue to contribute our share in this respect.

Mr. Chairman, Austria welcomes the Symposium to be held at the close of today's and tomorrow's plenary meeting under the theme "Legal Implications of Space Applications for Global Climate Change". Climate change presents a challenge for all our societies and governments and we consider it very timely to discuss the contribution and the legal implications space applications can make in the search for solutions to the challenge of climate change.

Mr. Chairman, at last year's forty-sixth session, the Legal Subcommittee approved the report of its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. This report foresees the preparation of a background paper by the Secretariat on the agreement governing the activities of States on the Moon and other celestial bodies. We hope that the discussions to be undertaken, once the Working Group reconvenes, during this session under agenda item 6, will, *inter alia*, contribute to explore the reasons for the low number of ratifications of the Moon Agreement and also contribute to a better understanding of the advantages of adhering to this Agreement.

While not underestimating the role of non-binding agreements and rules for the development of international law, treaty law, in our view, remains the cornerstone of the applied rules and customs of international law.

As one of the States having ratified all of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, Austria would also be ready to consider amendments to those

treaties that have not been ratified by many States in order to make them more attractive for other States to become parties, while, at the same time, preserving the basic legal concepts of these instruments.

Mr. Chairman, I have just mentioned that Austria has ratified all of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. We are mindful of our international legal obligations with regard to space activities conducted by either public or private entities. In particular, we would like to emphasize the principle overarching all five of the United Nations treaties, that all space activities are to be conducted for peaceful purposes only.

This leads me to one of the most important space projects Austria is currently developing. The Technical University of Graz, in cooperation with the University of Vienna, the Technical University of Vienna and the University of Toronto, has started a research project to investigate the brightness of massive luminous stars, the differential photometry. In 2006, the contract for the development of the first Austrian satellite, scheduled to be launched in 2009, in the framework of this research project, was signed. The satellite is known as Bright Target Explorer and will be used to observe stars of high mass.

Data on the vibrations may reveal new insights on the composition of these stars as well as on the chemical evolution of the Universe. This project and this development constitutes for Austria, in technical but also in a legal respect, a new era in space.

So far there was no necessity for Austria to develop a national space legislation to form the legal basis for the exploration and use of outer space.

With the development of the Bright Star Explorer and its prospective launch next year, however, the need arose to develop national rules on space law. We, therefore, very much welcome last year's proposal, approved by the Legal Subcommittee, to conduct a general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

We hope to gain important insights from this exchange of information for the development of our own rules. This exchange will be conducted under agenda item 12 and we will present our preliminary conclusions on the development of our national rules under this item.

Mr. Chairman, in concluding, allow me to emphasize that my delegation is ready to continue to

provide strong support to the work and the deliberations of this Subcommittee, as well as to the Office for Outer Space Affairs. In this spirit, we are looking forward to a productive and rewarding forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of Austria for the presentation of the statement of your country. I think that everybody here in this room is well aware of the great support that has been provided for years by Austria to the efforts of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and both its Subcommittees, including, of course, our own Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee. And, therefore, I also watched very carefully your words concerning the further development of the United Nations treaties on outer space and we are well aware of the fact that Austria is one of the countries of, who are relatively low number of countries that have ratified all five international space treaties. Myself, I was present when the representative of Austria, I think it was at that time, Dr. Helmut Dirk(?), announced the ratification of the Fifth Space Law Treaty of the Agreement on the Moon. I think it was at the session of the Committee here, that was held here in Vienna in 1994, if my memory is correct.

Thank you very much indeed. I also would like to thank you for the kind words that you addressed to the Chair, of course to our new Director of the Office and to all the Secretariat of this Subcommittee.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak this morning on the general exchange of views?

I see none and, therefore, because we still have plenty of time left so I would like to use this time as much as possible and I would like to give the floor this time to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and, on behalf of the Legal Subcommittee, invite her to deliver her statement. You have the floor Madam.

Ms. M. OTHMAN (Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs): Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure to welcome you as the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee again and to see you presiding over this session. We are confident that under your guidance, this will be a very productive session and I want to assure you the full support of my colleagues and I.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Ambassador González for ably guiding the Subcommittee during his term as the Chairman.

I am grateful for this opportunity to address the Legal Subcommittee in order to review the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs relating to international space law over the last year and to touch on plans for the future.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, with regard to the five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, Turkey has acceded to the Liability Convention in the past year. With respect to other events, Bahrain has acceded to the Convention relating to the distribution of programme carrying signals transmitted by satellites. And the Republic of Kiribati(?) has acceded to the International Telecommunication Constitution and Convention.

During the last year, the Office continued to discharge the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. With reference to the 1976 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and General Assembly resolution 1721 (b) of 20 December 1961, the Office continued to maintain the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Information received in accordance with the Registration Convention, as well as General Assembly resolution 1721 (b) XVI, has been circulated to all member States and can be found in document series ST/SG/SERE/1535 and A/AC.105/INF.1416(?) respectively.

In the past year, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States, United Arab Emirates, the European Space Agency and the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, EUMETSAT, furnished registration information on their space objects. The registration documents and an online index of objects launched in to outer space can be found on the Office website, which continues to be updated.

In addition, Brazil notified the United Nations that it had established a national registry of space objects in accordance with Article 2 of the Registration Convention. This information was distributed to member States in document ST/SG/SERE/INF.19.

The Office is also pleased to inform the Subcommittee that as part of its Technical Assistance Programme, it has responded to requests from a number of member States and international intergovernmental organizations on mechanisms for registering space objects in accordance with the Registration Convention.

As delegates are aware, the Subcommittee's multi-year debate on the harmonization of registration practices, concluded successfully in 2007 with the General Assembly adopting resolution 62/101 on recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects. The Office is pleased to inform the Subcommittee that the debate on registration practices and the subsequent General Assembly resolution have already resulted in harmonization of registration practices by some States and also an interest in registering of space objects by other States.

The Office would like to encourage all member States who have launched and/or operate space objects to register them with the Secretary-General in accordance with the Registration Convention or General Assembly resolution 1721 (b) XVI.

The Office would like to draw member States attention to Article 2 of the Registration Convention requesting parties to inform the Secretary-General of the establishment of national registries and invite parties that have not done so to inform the Office accordingly.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Office continues to discharge other responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General under the legal regime governing activities in outer space, in particular dissemination information provided by member States under Article 11 of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

The Office also informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the notifications received regarding the satellite USA-193.

The Office, along with a number of other international organizations is part of the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the international organizations established within the context of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Both these Conventions serve as the prime legal instruments that establish an international framework to facilitate the exchange of information and the prompt provision of assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency with the aim of minimizing consequences. The Office plays a role in the Joint Plan within the context of its duties to

fulfil the responsibilities of the United Nations Secretary-General in accordance with the provision of certain instruments adopted by the General Assembly which are particularly relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, as delegations are also aware, the Office has published a new edition of the Treaty Booklet entitled "United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space and Related General Assembly resolutions and the inserts with information on States Parties and additional signatories to the treaties and other international agreements relating to activities in outer space as of 1 January 2008. In accordance with a request made by the Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session in 2007, the booklet now contains the following additional text.

Part A of General Assembly resolution 1721 XVI of 20 December 1961, the text of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000 in which the Assembly had endorsed the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session in 2000 on the question of the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit and the paper entitled "Some Aspects Concerning the Use of the Geostationary Orbit" annexed to the report of the Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session, and General Assembly resolution 62/101 of 17 December 2007 entitled "Recommendations on Enhancing the Practice of States and International Intergovernmental Organizations in Registering Space Objects".

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, under its Capacity-Building Programme on Space Law, the Office continues to promote the understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations Treaties and Principles on outer space to support the exchange of information on national space law and policy and to encourage the increase of education opportunities in space law.

This year, the Office will hold, jointly with the Government of Thailand, and the Geo-Informatic and Space Technology Development Agency, the Sixth Workshop on Space Law. The Workshop, which will be held from 24 to 27 November in Thailand, will focus on the international responsibilities of States under the treaties and the establishment of national legal and policy frameworks. We would like to thank the Government of Thailand and the European Space Agency for their support of this Workshop.

I am also pleased to inform delegations that in response to the Legal Subcommittee's request last year, the Office organized a meeting in December 2007 to

begin preparing a curriculum for a basic course on space law that could be included in the education programmes of the Regional Centres on Space Science and Technology Education that are affiliated to the United Nations. For this purpose, the Office invited representatives of the Regional Centres and a number of space law educators from all regions of the world. The report of the meeting encompassing conclusions and recommendations is contained in document A/AC.105/908 which has already been distributed among member States.

I am further pleased to inform the Subcommittee that the work on the curricular has been continued via e-mail since the meeting in December and working sessions have been organized this week to take advantage of the presence of a number of these educators at the Legal Subcommittee and to make further progress in the development of the curriculum.

In line with the above, and in response to the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-second session in 2003, the Office, every year, invites a number of institutions to provide information on their programmes relating to space law. Based on the information received, the Office compiles a Directory of Education Opportunities in Space Law. As you well know, the Directory contains information on the respective institutions areas of specialization, the educational programmes offered, the facilities available, the prerequisite qualifications, financial information, fellowship opportunities and opportunities for international cooperation as well as references to educational material easily available on the Internet and addresses and contact points.

The Office is currently exploring improved information technology options to enhance the timeliness and accuracy of information updated to the Directory. These improvements will be advertised on our website in the coming months. I would like to inform the distinguished delegates that the updated version of the Directory will be made available on our website and will also be distributed in a Conference Room Paper during this session. It is hoped that this Directory will assist member States and will promote cooperation among member States and education institutions in relation to space law. In particular, it is hoped that information on education opportunities will assist developing countries in establishing indigenous capabilities in space law.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, in 2007, the Office continued to be called upon to provide advice on international space law and legal issues relating to activities in outer space. The Office has

also continued to strengthen cooperation with space law entities and organizations with a view to contributing to worldwide efforts to promote understanding and the development of space law. The Office fulfilled this role within the limits of its capacity in response to various requests and queries.

In that regard, the Office participated in a Workshop on Space Law, co-organized by the Ministry of Information and Communication of Iran and the Iranian Space Agency, held in Tehran on 17 and 18 November 2007. The Workshop focused on the application of space law, in national space activities and gathered international and national experts in various fields of space law.

The Office also participated in the Summer Course on Space Law and Policy of the European Centre for Space Law, held in September 2007 in _____(?), The Netherlands.

I was pleased to inform member States that the Office continues its cooperative activities with the Institute of Air and Space Law at the Cologne University in order to further the status and applications of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. The Institute has, since 1989, produced a selection called "Space Law Basic Legal Documents". This publication is a loose-leaf collection consisting of four volumes and serves as an essential reference and research tool for those involved in the formulation, implementation and operation of space law and policy. Its loose-leaf format ensures that the material is kept fully up-to-date. Students, libraries and universities from developing countries can purchase the collection at special conditions directly from the publisher. I am pleased to inform you that in December 2006, instalment 11 was published. From April 2006, an online version of "Space Law Basic Legal Documents" is available in addition to the hard copy version.

The Office will continue to explore various mechanisms of ensuring that information relating to space law reaches the widest possible audience, including cooperating, where possible, with space law institutions to update and make accessible a variety of documents, materials and information resources that would be useful to both government officials and academia, particularly those from developing countries.

As regards promoting the application of international law and providing technical assistance to help governments implement their commitments under the outer space treaties, the Office will continue to

provide legal advice _____ to member States within its available resources.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Office is pleased to inform the Subcommittee that it continues to regularly update its website. As well as providing member States with reference tools such as the Online Index of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the National Space Law Database and the Treaties Status Database, the website also provides texts of the treaties and relevant General Assembly resolutions and documents in all official languages of the United Nations. The Office would like to take this opportunity to invite member States to provide texts of their national space laws for inclusion in the website.

I am also pleased to inform the Subcommittee that the Office has set up a special webpage to assist member States in accessing the series of limited distribution type of documents. That will be before delegations at this session. The address of the webpage can be found in this session's Conference Room Paper CRP.1 which has been distributed in the document boxes for delegations.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, let me reaffirm our Office's commitment to serving the interest of member States in the area of space law.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank you distinguished Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Mazlan Othman, for your informative statement. I think it is really a good source of knowledge about what your Office, under your able guidance, has been doing and this is a picture quite impressive, in my opinion. I think that the distinguished delegates agree with me in this respect.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee, but before doing so, I would like to remind delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon.

We will meet promptly at 3.00 p.m. today. At that time we will continue consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views. And since we have this particular point, this particular item on our agenda only this afternoon and tomorrow, I would like to urge you, or better to say that those delegations who wish to intervene on this item to apply for inscribing in the list of speakers as soon as they possibly can.

Some times around 4.00 p.m. this afternoon, I intend to suspend the meeting of the Subcommittee to

allow time for the IISL and ECSL Symposium, as already advised in the beginning of this session.

The 766th meeting of the Subcommittee will be adjourned at the conclusion of the Symposium.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

It is so decided.

As a final announcement, I would like to inform delegations that the provisional list of participants for this Subcommittee session will be distributed in the first half of the week. I would request all delegations that have not done so already to send an official letter with the names of their representatives to the Secretariat as soon as possible so they can be included on this provisional list of participants.

So our time or better to say not our time but our programme for this morning is up and this meeting is, therefore, adjourned. Thank you for the participation.

The meeting adjourned at 11.56 a.m.