

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

Unedited transcript

769th Meeting

Wednesday, 2 April 2008, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. V. Kopal (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.09 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates. I would now declare open the 769th meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

I would first like to inform you of our programme of work for this morning. We will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 5, General Exchange of Views. We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, and agenda item 7, Information on the Activities of International Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations Relating to Space Law.

Time permitting, the Working Group on the agenda item 6 will hold its second meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Vassilios Cassapoglou of Greece.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

General exchange of views (agenda item 5)

I see none and, therefore, we will immediately start with the discussion on the general exchange of views. I hope that we will conclude this consideration of item 5 this morning.

The first speaker on my list is the distinguished Ambassador for Chile.

Mr. M. SKONIC TAPIA (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Yes good morning Chairman. Thank you very much for giving me the floor.

Chairman, on behalf of our delegation, we would like to express our satisfaction at your being elected Chair of the work for this session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS and we are sure that you will lead this to a successful conclusion.

At the same time, we would like to greet the authorities of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and thank them for their very efficient work in preparing this meeting and in preparing working documents.

Similarly, on behalf of Ambassador Raimundo González, we would like to express our thanks for the expressions of thank extended to him, from you, from delegations and the Office for conducting the work of the Legal Subcommittee over the last two years in which Chile had the honour of taking the Chair.

Chairman, without prejudging our contributions on specific items of the agenda, we would like to take this opportunity to emphasize some aspects which seem relevant in our discussion.

Firstly, we note with pleasure the holding of the Symposium on legal repercussions of the application of space technology on climate change which has occurred in parallel with the work of the Subcommittee and which has been organized on the basis of the initiative which our delegation had to

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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.



incorporate this issue and which was approved at the previous session of this Subcommittee. We are grateful to the organizing institutions for their dedication in bring about this work which we hope will contribute to enriching and bolstering knowledge which this can bring about and help space technology. We followed with interest the deliberations of the two sessions and we believe that there are interesting proposals for our Subcommittee. We are grateful that we have been given a time briefly to present the contribution made by Ambassador González to this Symposium. We are confident that the content will focus on development and make available the necessary legal elements to face up to this reality throughout the world from a perspective which has added value both when it comes to space law as in terms of environmental law and elsewhere, avoiding duplication of tasks which ought to be taken up by other United Nations institutions.

This matter, that is climate change, today, links up to all other aspects of multilateral work. Hence, we should take particular care in the way we work on this and that we deal with this from the point of view proper(?) to our own perspective.

When it comes to item 6 of the provisional programme, Chile restates its determined commitment to the means taken to achieve universal adherence to the five United Nations treaties on exploration and peaceful use of outer space. And in this vein, we listened with interest to the flexibility shown by some delegations to consider amendments to one or other of these five treaties, providing that this facilitates adherence by a greater number of these States and ensures that there is greater participation. Similarly, we would like particular attention to be paid to this, along the same lines aware that there is a constant increase in the development of space activities which makes obvious the need for a legal framework for space and to be signed up to universally. We think that we need to promote knowledge, acceptance and application of the treaties and principles of the United Nations, a task that which we acknowledge this Office for Outer Space Affairs has an ongoing interest.

Chairman, like many other delegations, we would like also to express our satisfaction at the members of the Subcommittee for the two important resolutions approved by the General Assembly, that is 62/101 and resolution 62/217. Since these resolutions shown a significant change with regard to previous resolutions, in particular the resolution on recommendations to enhance the practice of States for registration of space objects.

Finally, Chairman, our delegation is pleased to inform you that this week, in Chile, the International Trade Fair of Air and Outer Space, FIDAE 2008, is being held. At the same time, and in the context of that event, yesterday an event began and it will finish today, that is the Space Conference Technology and Climate Change, in the context of the Millennium Goals.

We think that science and space technology can play an important role in mitigating adverse effects which are coming about globally in this context and, hence, we have dedicated a special part of that event to the analysis and diffusion of this in line with scientific diagnosis and political policies. Without doubt, we need to think about one of the main challenges facing the planet today which affects so many different aspects which are crucial for human security and social development. Less advanced countries must have an opportunity to prepare and adapt to this new aspect which reflects the development of nations and international cooperation is a significant aspect in expanding the benefits which can come about from scientific progress in aspects of space.

We think that through the work of this Subcommittee and of the Plenary, we can come up with specific mechanisms and formulas to move forward in an efficient way to achieve this cooperation in building a legal framework which is universally accepted and applied.

Thank you very much Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you Your Excellency for the presentation of the statement on behalf of your country in which you pinpointed and stressed several important questions and I do not need then to repeat all of them but I would like to recognize your support for the existing five United Nations treaties on outer space and of also your contribution, it means the contribution of Ambassador González to the Symposium that was held yesterday, though he was not personally present but still he managed to prepare this contribution which was presented to the audience during the first day on Monday.

I think that also your information about the activities that have been effected recently, particularly the International Fair on Air and Space, FIDAE, in 2008 and in conjunction with this event the Space Conference, technology and its use for the purposes of climate conditions on our Earth and, of course, the role of space objects in this respect, was very interesting and welcome.

Finally, you supported international cooperation as an important component in increasing the benefits derived from the space science and technology. Thank you very much once again and through you also to Ambassador González for his contribution.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Brazil.

Mr. F. DE MELLO VIDAL (Brazil): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In the name of the Brazilian delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Legal Subcommittee. I can assure the full cooperation of my delegation in your task to preside over the activities of this body.

May I also take this opportunity to greet the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Dr. Mazlan Othman. I thank her, as well as other members of the Office, for the preparation of this meeting which we hope will be a very successful one.

Mr. Chairman, we have witnessed in the last decades the development of space activities to a scale that was not foreseeable over 50 years ago. As the growing participation of the private sector shows, space activities are no longer the exclusive domain of States, which only adds to the complexity of the subject. With a crucial contribution of this body, we have seen the peaceful uses of outer space expand during these years. We have also developed international instruments that helped promote peace and security in space. The characterization of outer space as the province of mankind, is about one of the more important examples of our many achievements in the legal field.

Brazil believes that the new and growing challenges posed by space activities require a corresponding development in space law. We also believe that this development cannot take place without the contribution of the Legal Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, it is vital that this forum be strengthened and that member States invest in it with a capacity to accomplish its objectives. In this context, one of the most important challenges we face is how to increase the participation of developing countries in the use and in the sharing of benefits of space activities.

Brazil defends that all countries should have the infrastructure to receive, process, analyze and use satellite data. So Brazil's space applications constitute a means to promote sustainable development. Space technology allows us to monitor our forests, mineral

and water resources. It aids us in urban planning as well as in developing agriculture. This technology also provides us with a means to promote capacity-building in different areas.

As you are aware, in November 2007, Brazil and China announced in Cape Town at the Ministerial Summit of the Group on Earth Observations, GEO, the free distribution to the African continent of images made by the China/Brazil Earth Resources Satellite, CBERS. CBERS is the product of a partnership that completes 20 years in 2008, representing a landmark in the Brazilian Space Programme and in international cooperation between developing countries in the technological field.

In the last three years and a half, Brazil has freely distributed over 350,000 pictures taken by CBERS which probably makes us the largest distributor in the world. By doing so, we have fostered the establishment of a wide culture of satellite data, utilization and created an important domestic market in this field. This initiative, CBERS for Africa, is a symbol of the great leap Brazil and China are taking in the area of image distribution. We expect to soon be able to expand the benefits of CBERS to Central America with the establishment of a new reception station in the northern region of Brazil.

Though Brazil and other developing countries are taking steps to contribute the equitable access to outer space and its products, this can only be achieved through the coordinated action of the international community. In this context, we are pleased to inform that we have made significant advances in several cooperation initiatives.

Another challenge for the coming years is how to further develop international space law in a manner that builds upon the great achievements of past decades. The growing presence of mankind in outer space means that we cannot afford to ignore the need for adequate international regulation of space activities. We are aware of the need to strengthen the rule of law in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the Subcommittee that a few days ago, Dr. Carlos Gannen(?), a dynamic expert in the area of science and technology, became President of the Brazilian Space Agency. In his inauguration, Dr. Gannen(?) stressed his commitment to international cooperation in the context of the Brazilian Space Programme. We are confident that Dr. Gannen's(?) ideas will meet at higher ground as there is growing international

recognition that cooperation is a necessary element for taking full advantage of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Brazil is confident that in this manner it will be able to further contribute to the promotion of space activities for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries and to the advancement on international space law for the benefit of all mankind. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Brazil for your statement on behalf of your country. I think that in this statement you stressed the importance of further peaceful exploration and uses of outer space and the role of international law to develop in parallel with these scientific and technical activities. And you also appreciated the role of this Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee, in this development.

And then you underlined the need to increase the participation of developing countries in the use and in the sharing of benefits of space activities.

I believe that also important was your announcement about the Declaration of November 2007 made by Brazil and China about free distribution of images of CBERS to the African continent, to all countries of the African continent. And indeed it is very impressive that in the last three years you already distributed over 350,000 such images freely. It is a symbol to the great leap in this area of the image distribution.

You, again, turned to further development of international space law and you said that we could not afford to ignore the need for adequate international regulation of space activities.

Finally, I would like to congratulate, through you Excellency, to Dr. Carlos Gannen(?) on his election of President of the Brazilian Space Agency and his commitment to emphasize international cooperation in the context of the Brazilian Space Programme.

I would also like to thank you for your kind words addressed to the Chair and to the Director of the Office and I apologize, I forgot to do the same in conjunction with the kind words of the distinguished Ambassador for Chile before it that was addressed to me and to the whole Secretariat, the whole Office. Thank you very much.

And I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Viet Nam.

Mr. H. VAN SINH (Viet Nam): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants. First of all, the Vietnamese delegation would like to extend our own congratulations on your election as the Chairman for the forty-seventh session of the Legal Subcommittee. We are fully convinced that with your excellent capability and rich experience, you will lead the session to a successful outcome.

We also would like to congratulate Dr. Othman on her appointment as the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

The Vietnamese delegation also joining other delegations express our full support and cooperation in the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes and prosperity of mankind.

Mr. Chairman, as you may have known that in June 2006, the Vietnamese delegation approved a strategy for research and application of space technology up to 2020. In order to realize this strategy, the Space Technology Institute has been established and a National Programme for Research and Application of Space Technology is currently formulated.

The Vietnamese Ground Receiving Station has been completed and put into operation since November 2007. This is a cooperative project between Viet Nam and EADS Corporation France.

It is our great pleasure to inform that with the close and effective collaboration of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the European Space Agency, the Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Forest Management and Environmental Protection was successfully held in November 2007 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, with the participation of more than 100 experts and managers, among which 40 from overseas and international organizations. This Workshop provided an excellent opportunity to exchange views, knowledge and experience in the application of space technology to the natural disaster prevention and mitigation.

In December 2008, the Fifth Asian-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, APRSAF 15, will be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, with the collaboration and support of Japan and other countries. You are warmly welcome to participate in this Forum.

The Vietnamese delegation is also very happy to inform that the preparation for launching the first Vietnamese communications satellite, VINASAT(?) -1, has been completed and it is planned to be launched on 12 April 2008. This is the cooperative project of Viet Nam with Lockheed Martin Corporation, United States of America, and Ariane Space France. Viet Nam has completed all the necessary procedures for the registration of orbit and frequency, as well as insurance according to international practice.

In addition, Viet Nam has been also actively conducting research and development of some more Earth observation satellites for environmental monitoring and disaster management.

Regarding the international treaties on the peaceful use of outer space, Viet Nam is actively studying and building its capacity in the national space legislation.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, Viet Nam would like to express its wishes to expand cooperation with other countries and international organizations in research, development and utilization of the space technology for peaceful purposes and the benefit of mankind. Thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Viet Nam for your statement on behalf of your country. In this statement, you expressed full support of the Government and country of Viet Nam through the cooperation in the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes and prosperity of mankind. Of course, this is most welcome.

And you also informed us about the progress in elaboration of a strategy for space technology research and application until 2020, which you already approved, and on the preparation of your National Programme for Space Technology Research and Application.

You also informed us about your contribution to activities in the field of developing further international cooperation in space matters, particularly on the Regional Workshop that was organized by your Government in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the European Space Agency, in Hanoi, in November 2007.

Also important was the organization, or will be the organization of the Fifteenth Asian-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, which will be held in Hanoi in December 2008.

Very encouraging is, of course, also the preparation of Viet Nam for the launching of the first Vietnamese communication satellite which has been completed and is planned to be launched on 12 April 2008, it means in a few days. And very encouraging is particularly the fact that you have managed to prepare this project in international cooperation with the Lockheed Martin Corporation of the United States and Ariane-Espace of France.

And finally, you have also informed us about the actively studying and building the capacity of Viet Nam in national space legislation.

I would like to thank you for your statement and also for the kind words that you extended to the Chair and to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Thank you very much once again.

The next speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Thailand to whom I give the floor.

Mr. S. CHARANASOMBOON (Thailand): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all, on behalf of the Thai delegation, I would like to join other previous speakers congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of this Subcommittee. I hope that under your able leadership and guidance, our meeting will conclude successfully.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, since becoming a member of COPUOS in 2004, Thailand has actively participated in the work of the Subcommittees. Thailand has successfully held the exhibition on space activities during the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Also in November this year, Thailand, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, will hold a Workshop on Space Law in Bangkok. In addition, Thailand has just completed all its internal procedures for the ratification of the APSCO(?) Convention. This can be seen as examples of our dedication to the development of space law.

Mr. Chairman, let me start with a subject concerning the definition and delimitation of outer space. Thailand wishes to express our appreciation and our full support to the work of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space in its efforts to study the various multifaceted aspects of the definition and delimitation of outer space. We are aware of the pending issues regarding the delimitation of outer space. However, it is clear in our mind that

technology dictates the definition of outer space and its delimitation. Thus, these issues will be settled over time. In the case of outer space, if members fail to give clear-cut criteria for delimitation, a special regime was sewn(?) between aerospace and outer space should be explored. In our viewpoint, a study on the delimitation on outer space is timely under the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS.

Mr. Chairman, now I would like to briefly touch upon the matters of space debris and the transfer of ownership in satellite systems. The main legal issue here is that of liabilities and responsibilities of States and private operators. Since outer space activities are no longer reserved for States, commercial exploitation of outer space by private enterprises has become common place. This may involve a transfer of ownership in satellite systems as whereas the problem of space debris. The Cape Town Convention and its Protocol make it possible to mortgage(?) space assets. This implies that a satellite could be taken over in case of default in the event of a transfer of ownership in the satellite system to an operator in a foreign country. There is a lacuna in space law which refer to the legal status and liability of the launching State whether this should be shifted to the national State of the new operator of that satellite system or remain with the national State of the former operator. Such ambiguity might lead to the question in the future of which State should be responsible for the space debris.

Mr. Chairman, before I conclude my statement, please allow me to assure you that Thailand, among other COPUOS members, will make every effort to actively contribute to the work of COPUOS regarding current issues of space law. Moreover, Thailand highly regards the benefits of capacity-building in space education.

As mentioned earlier this year, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, is honoured and pleased to hold the Workshop on Space Law in Bangkok. We hope that the Workshop will be a useful forum for experts and authorities concerned to share their views, knowledge and experiences for further development of both international and national space law to translate this concept into action, scholarships and fellowships, including financial assistance for nationals from developing countries should be sufficiently provided to enable them to pursue their studies in space law in the developed countries. Job opportunities should be co-_____ (?) with special consideration for candidates from the developing countries so as they may develop an enhanced expertise in this area.

Mr. Chairman, space is never(?) be a common heritage of humankind as we intend it to be without a full participation of developing countries in the development of the law applicable to it.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Thailand for your statement in which you drew our attention to several important events that have or will occur in your country. One of them, not the least one, but one of them is just the Workshop to be held by Thailand in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, in Bangkok, later this year, in November, and which will thus continue in the traditions of the first series of such Workshops that were held earlier.

You then concentrated on some specific aspects of our agenda, particularly you drew our attention to the problem of the definition and delimitation of outer space which will be discussed in the Working Group under the able guidance of our colleague, Professor Monserrat Filho. And you introduced here a new, I would say, approach to the possibility of solving these problems by establishing a special regime or zone between aerospace and outer space that should be explored as one of the possibilities.

Now I would also like to recall the matters of space debris and the transfer of ownership in satellite systems that you mentioned in your statement and you drew our attention to lacuna in space law with regard to the legal status and liability of the launching State.

Finally, I recorded that Thailand will make every effort to actively contribute to the work of COPUOS regarding current issues of space law and also the promise of a full participation in this process in order to enable the full participation of developing countries in the development of the law applicable to these problems.

Thank you very much once again and I also thank you for your kind words addressed to the Chair and to the Office and the Secretariat.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Spain.

Mr. B. DE ÁGUEDA CORNELOUP (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Spanish delegation would like to say

how pleased it is to see you preside over the meetings of the forty-seventh session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. Your extensive experience and professional skills will help us greatly to make sure that this Subcommittee will achieve the goals that we all aspire to reach.

Furthermore, we would congratulate the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador González of Chile, for the work performed.

This delegation would furthermore like to convey its words of congratulations to Dr. Mazlan Othman as she was appointed to head the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations. We are sure that the noteworthy background and dedication will make the work of the Office even more effective in its support of COPUOS and the Subcommittees. To that end, she may count on the unstinting support of Spain.

Furthermore, we would like to express our thanks to the previous Director of the Office, Dr. Sergio Camacho, since we had close cooperation with him.

Spain has entered into a firm commitment in terms of the peaceful use of outer space. Our efforts come under the Strategic Development Plan for the Space Sector covering 2007 to 2011. The most ambitious aim of this Plan is to develop an Earth observation system with our Hegasolution(?) Optical Satellite, INJEÑO, and another equipped with radio technology known as PAS(?). This programme will mean that Spain will be one of the few countries to possess both technologies for Earth monitoring and observation. The European Space Agency is participating in terms of the development of the project to make sure that it is consistent in technical terms and that it will smoothly intermesh with the future global monitoring of environment and security system. Furthermore, nano-technologies, as applied to space, has led us to launch NANOSAT-1 in 2005 while NANOSAT-1B will be launched this year.

We would like to underline, Mr. Chairman, that most of our space activities come about in multi-national or multilateral contexts with the European Space Agency or in the context of general cooperation agreements such as the one entered into with the ROSKOSMOS(?) Space Agency of Russia, the National Space Administration, NASA, the United States of America, and CNES of France, as well as the Canadian Space Agency. As for external institutional relations, I would like to point out that the Centre for Industrial Technology Development, CDTI, has

become a full-fledge member of CEOS, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites. This means that Spain will coordinate its Earth observation activities in an international context.

Mr. Chairman, Spain, in its capacity as space-capacity user nation, has interest in guaranteeing the use of space in conditions of freedom, safety and such that benefit all mankind. We believe that this Subcommittee continues to play a major part in ensuring those overall aims and goals by reviewing the application of the legal framework that governs outer space. Spain is a party to the four first treaties that apply to outer space. We are in favour of a universal accession to these treaties and full implementation of such instruments.

A noteworthy landmark in the work of the Legal Subcommittee with the preparation of recommendations to improve the practice of States and international organizations in terms of the registry of space objects adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 62/101. Spain believes that these recommendations and the guidelines on how to reduce space debris are a model showing us how the international community can produce recommendations that have universal validity and develop a legal framework to govern outer space. To that end, Spain is of a view that new topics should be identified for consideration in COPUOS to ensure future viability of space activities.

As for the Protocol on Space Assets, in the context of the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment of 2001, Spain believes that the follow-up of this item should be maintained on the programme of the Legal Subcommittee. At this point in time, Spain is considering joining that Convention and we hope that negotiation on the Protocol will be successful.

The delegation of Spain is pleased with the inclusion of the new topic, General Exchange of Information on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, on the agenda.

In respect to domestic legislation in Spain, all we have in force at this point in time is the World Decree of 1995 establishing the National Spanish Registry of Space Objects in Application of the Convention on Registry of 1975. However, a debate is now underway in Spain on the advisability of enacting a future national law which would be comprehensive and which would have the status of a Parliamentary

law. Spain will duly inform this Subcommittee of any developments along those lines. Thank you Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Spain for your statement on behalf of your country. I believe that, again, you have brought some important observations and, at the same time, important information on the development of space activities, international cooperation in space activities and also on the participation of your country in the development of the legal basis for space activities. You emphasized particularly your participation in the cooperation concerning Earth observation and your cooperation within the European Space Agency and also with some important national agencies, such as ROSKOSMOS(?) of Russia, American NASA, or CNES of France and other projects of your cooperation.

You also emphasized and your adherence to the four United Nations treaties on outer space and established as one of the main aims in this respect, the universal extension of these treaties.

Finally, you mentioned also the interest of space in the Cape Town Convention of 2001 and in the preparation of the Space Protocol to this Convention. You mentioned then also the establishment of the Space Register in Spain and also your support of the cooperation for improvement of the registration system in the United Nations.

I think that is all what I wanted to, not to comment, but to remind the delegations and finally I would like to thank you for the kind words that were addressed to the Chair, to the Office and the Director of the Office, but also to the previous Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee, Ambassador González of Chile, and last but not least, to Dr. Sergio Camacho who very ably guided the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the United Nations during the previous period. Thank you very much once again.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of The Netherlands.

Mr. R.J.M. LEFEBER (Netherlands): Thank you Mr. Chairman, good morning colleagues. Let me first of all congratulate you on your re-election as Chair of this Committee and let me add that my delegation would be surprised if this was the last time that we have had the pleasure of re-electing you as the Chair of this Committee and we look forward to working with you.

Our congratulations also go to Mazlan Othman on her re-appointment as the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, it pleases the Kingdom of the Netherlands to inform you that on 1 January of this year our national legislation relating to the activities in outer space has entered into force. An English translation of the Space Act has been notified to the Office for Outer Space Affairs last year.

I would like to use this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on the adoption of regulations implementing the Space Act. These regulations relate to the establishment of a National Registry and administrative procedures.

On the basis of the Space Act, a governmental regulation has been adopted by the Council of Ministers containing the rules for the registration of space objects. The Registry contains two separate sub-registries, one for the registration of space objects on the basis of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched Into Outer Space, and another for the registration of outer space objects for which The Netherlands bears responsibility in conformity with Article 6 of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

The Registries can be found on the Internet and a notification to the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the establishment of the National Registry will follow shortly.

So far, only space objects have been registered in respect of which The Netherlands is not required to furnish information on the basis of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched Into Outer Space. The information on the ARIS(?) satellite still has to be inserted into the appropriate registry.

In addition to the governmental regulation concerning the registration of space objects, the Minister of Economic Affairs has issued a Ministerial Decree on Administrative Procedures. These implementing regulations are in the process of being translated. As soon as the texts are available in English, we will notify the Office for Outer Space Affairs of these regulations.

In the context of the agenda item on general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, we will make a presentation to provide you with more details of our space legislation.

Mr. Chairman, finally, I would like to give you some information concerning the application of the five core United Nations outer space treaties in the other parts of the Kingdom, namely Aruba and The Netherlands Antilles. The Space Act is only applicable in The Netherlands, that is the European part of the Kingdom. Aruba and The Netherlands Antilles are still in the process of developing regulations for the implementation of the five core United Nations outer space treaties. The Netherlands Antilles contemplates to adopt legislation that is similar to the space legislation that is applicable in The Netherlands. Aruba, however, contemplates to prohibit activities in outer space for which it bears responsibility in conformity with Article 6 of the Outer Space Treaty. And let me add that Aruba, or the Aruban Government, is not fundamentally opposed to space activities. The problem is lack of qualitative and quantitative capacity and also at the current time, lack of public and private interest in space activities. So it is planned to prohibit activities maybe reviewed if an interest arises on the part of the public authorities or private actors. However, in order to comply with their responsibilities under the five core United Nations treaties on outer space, it is necessary to take action and to provide for legislation.

When new information becomes available relating to the adoption of space legislation in Aruba and The Netherlands Antilles, we will provide this Committee with an update. Thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of The Netherlands for your statement on behalf of your country. Its most important part towards the announcement about the accomplishment in the field of national legislation by adoption of national legislations which will be effective starting from 1 January 2008. We also have taken note of your announcement that you intend to provide additional information during the discussion on the exchange of views on the national legislations which will be discussed under the new item with a work plan.

Also interesting was the final paragraph of your statement concerning the territories that still belong to the Kingdom of The Netherlands, it means The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, particularly the intended legislation which is being prepared in Aruba would be very interesting for us because this provision that should be inserted in such a legislation that is contemplated to prohibit activities in outer space for which it bears responsibility in conformity with Article

6 of the Outer Space Treaty. It would be very interesting to hear some more details about this particular aspect and, therefore, we acknowledge your offer to provide further information about it some day in the future.

I would also like to thank you for your very kind words addressed to me but, of course, I note that there will be also a rotation so there will be some other Chairman, I believe, equally able or perhaps more able than myself and they will lead us of the discussions in this Subcommittee.

Thank you very much and I now give the floor to the distinguished Ambassador for Ecuador. You have the floor Excellency.

Mr. B. MOREJÓN ALMEIDA (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Thank you very much Chairman. Chairman, my delegation would like to express its satisfaction at your being elected to the Chair to lead the work of the forty-seventh session of the Legal Affairs Subcommittee of COPUOS. We are fully aware of your great professional and personal qualities and of your huge experience in this field. We are sure that this session of the Subcommittee will be very successful and will conclude with major and specific contributions so that the international community, in particular developing countries, can achieve their aspiration of integrating more effectively and gaining better the benefits from the specific use of outer space through an adequate legal framework.

On the other hand, we note and express particular thanks to the members of the Bureau and in particular to the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mrs. Mazlan Othman, who, in a brief period of time at the head of the office, has shown great capacity and commitment. I am sure Madam Director-General that my delegation will support you in your aim to expand information to bolster international law on outer space and to express our thanks to the Secretariat for its intensive work in preparing the documents for this session.

Chairman, this forum is the right arena to reflect in-depth and to conduct an evaluation on the achievements to date of the Subcommittee which forms the conceptual framework for international space law, one of the substantial elements of which is international cooperation as the most appropriate and beneficial means of benefiting from the advantages of outer space for the common good.

Might I firstly re-state the fact that, for my country, the strengthening of international law is a

State policy, and to this end, that of also outer space because it involves bringing out an adequate legal framework and will determine also the rights and duties of States. In this vein, my country supports that a special legal framework which regulates activities in outer space will ensure that the benefits of research and space activities have positive ramifications for the quality of human life, guaranteeing conditions of equality, prosperity and wellbeing for present and future generations.

For this reason, in line with these principles, my country supports the maintenance of analysis of defining and delimiting outer space. We call upon and we applaud States which have sent in their replies to the questionnaire on possible legal matters related to spacecraft. My country, taking this opportunity, replied to this document and spoke out in favour of a uniform legal regime for navigation by spacecraft and thought it wise to point out that there is a serious legal void, both when it comes to space law and in aeronautical law, caused by the lack of a delimitation of air space.

Ecuador considers that the lack of progress in this matter creates legal insecurity or uncertainty in space since it makes it impossible to establish a limit between the obligations and rights of all States, in such a way that my country encourages the Subcommittee to continue examining this matter related to defining and delimiting outer space because we must master sufficient willpower in this common effort.

Chairman, Ecuador considers itself a country with interest in space which favour human development and the social development. This motive is one of the reasons for which, from July 2006 for a period of three years, it entered into a very serious and resolute commitment in leading the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, an important meeting of a technical, scientific and legal nature, aimed at greater knowledge and better application of space sciences and technologies in the countries of the continent of Latin America.

During its mandate, my country has redoubled its efforts to achieve the goal of ensuring the greatest possible benefits in favour of the region and as part of Ecuador's work in managing the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth CEA, my delegation is pleased to inform you about the significant progress in legal matters linked, once more, to the implementation of the Action Plan of the Fifth Conference of the Americas in the Declaration of San _____(?) de Quito. The Government of Ecuador took part at various

meetings and international fora linked to the mapped area of the aspect of space in which it repeated its support for the legal principles and convention they(?) standards which regulate exploration and use of outer space for peaceful ends.

Ecuador has also maintained an intense process of inter-institutional consultations to set up the Space Development Agency of Ecuador and this Agency will be the body which will regulate the development of applications of space sciences and technologies in our territory and in the near future. It will be the body that promotes programmes linked to the use of outer space for peaceful ends with its numerous applications and benefits for the Pro Tempore Secretariat.

With the commemoration of the World Week of Space between the 4th and 10th October, it was a matter of particular pleasure to hold the Space Development and Ecuador Symposium which concentrated on matters relating to the creation of the Ecuadorian Space Agency and it shows the importance of astronomy in our country and the Ecuador in Space Project led by the first Ecuadorian astronaut, Ronnie Nather(?). This Symposium marked a significant effort to open up an area for reflection in the scientific community of our country on the benefits of space applications.

I should highlight particularly that on 13th and 14 December last year, in the city of Quito, the first meeting of the International Group of Experts and the Tricular(?) of the Space Conference of the Americas was held, made up of Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations. The fundamental aim of this was to define mechanisms for international cooperation and assessment for implementation of activity programmes by its members. The upshot of the celebrations which were held during this meeting was precisely the document entitled "Conclusions and Recommendations of the International Group of Experts to the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth CEA for Implementation of its Action Plan", approved at the end of that meeting so contributing to achieving those goals set out within COPUOS to develop regional cooperation.

And in compliance with what we agreed upon at that meeting, the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the CEA has foreseen holding an international seminar on space law aimed at matters of regional and global interest such as climate change, remote sensing of the Earth from a legal perspective and, above all, the close link which exists between space law and development

law. The Pro Tempore Secretariat, at the moment, is conducting regional coordination in order to create a regional training centre and academic training centre in space law, in so doing, promoting interaction and exchange of knowledge in line with what was agreed at the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas.

We have put great store by Ecuador's participation and the delegates of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth CEA at the International Air and Space Trade Fair organized by the Chilean Space Agency which is being held this very week in Santiago de Chile, in the course of which the Conference is taking place space technology and climate change in the context of the United Nations Millennium Goals.

Chairman, finally, as regards the subject of the geostationary orbit, while the Ecuadorian delegation reserves the right to make a specific statement, we would like to re-state on this occasion the traditional position of Ecuador that this limited natural resource must be accessible and be a matter of priority for all countries, especially developing countries and those in a specific geographic position which needs to make use of outer space for the common good in line with economic and social development which is in line with internal legislation and the Constitutional Agreement of the International Telecommunication Union which was reformed in Minneapolis in 1998 and consequently with the commitments entered into by States Parties. As this forum well knows, the subject of the geostationary orbit is a priority for the Government of Ecuador for which reason my delegation underlines that this matter must be maintained in the context of COPUOS. Thank you very much Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished Ambassador for Ecuador for your statement and I believe that you have brought again some very important points which should be discussed within our Legal Subcommittee and in which you explained the position of your country. We certainly have heard your assurance about the support of Ecuador to the development of law in outer space which, as you informed us, constitute State policy of your country, State policy which support strengthening of international law in this field.

You also mentioned your position in relation to the issue of definition and delimitation of outer space and reasons why you feel it essentially to continue in the efforts to find an appropriate solution of the problem.

Also your thorough information about the activities in the region of the Americas and about the

role assumed by your country as in the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth Conference of the Americas. I think also the more detailed information about further activities within this regional and attainment and in addition to it also about the intensive process that is being developed in your country for establishment of a national agency on the space development in Ecuador was very valuable for us.

Finally, you reiterated the traditional position of your country with regard to the geostationary orbit as a limited natural resource to which all countries should have access, particularly the developing countries and also countries have a special geographical position. And in this respect, you referred to the Constitution of the International Convention and Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union of 1998.

Thank you very much for your statement and also for the kind words addressed to the Chair, to the Director of the Office and to the Secretariat as a whole for its effective work for the Subcommittee and also, of course, for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Thank you very much once again.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Italy.

Mr. S. MARCHISIO (Italy): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Italian delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Subcommittee and express my most sincere congratulations. I am convinced that under your leadership the Subcommittee will fulfil its task with renewed energy in the interests of the international community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our greatest appreciation for the remarkable work done by your predecessor, Ambassador Raimundo González Aninat, during the last two years.

Our delegation would also like to greet Dr. Mazlan Othman as the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. We also commend the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its support to the deliberations of this Subcommittee and for having published the new edition of the Treaty Booklet inserting some additional texts as requested last year by the Italian delegation. In particular, we believe that the agreement reached by the Subcommittee in 2000 on the question of the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, contained in the paper annexed to the report of the Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session is to be regarded as an important contribution to the

consolidation of the generally accepted legal regime applicable to the geostationary orbit.

Mr. Chairman, the Italian delegation fully supports the ongoing work concerning capacity-building in space law as a new single issue on the agenda of the Subcommittee. We are pleased that the Office had organized an extra 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 and Technology Education affiliated to the United Nations. We are aware of the positive results already reached and we are confident that this exercise could lead to a real dissemination of _____(?) space law especially in developing countries. In this perspective, we propose that this item should be extended beyond the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation shares the view expressed by other delegations the plan of the main task of this Subcommittee is to invite States and international organizations to adhere to the United Nations treaties on outer space as to give them a real universal character. However, this process continues to be slowed by several obstacles. We took note that only one State has ratified the Liability Convention in 2007. While the practice of States shows the benefits derived from the adherence to this specific United Nations Convention.

Just to make a reference to the most recent case mentioned during this general debate, I would like to stress that the notification provided by the United States on 14 February 2008 on the engagement of the United States satellite 193 stated that any United States liability to other treaty parties would be determined in accordance with the terms of the Liability Convention. So if any damage had occurred only State Parties to the Convention would have been allowed to present claims for compensation.

Mr. Chairman, the Italian delegation supports the efforts undertaken under agenda item 6 by the Working Group on Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, under the chairmanship of Mr. Cassapoglou. Belonging to a State that has not yet signed nor ratified the Moon Treaty, my delegation is particularly interested in the debate concerning the reasons why only a limited number of countries have accepted this 1979 Convention. We are convinced, Mr. Chairman, that the new perspectives concerning the colonization of the Moon and the use of the Moon as a base for exploring the deep space, call upon frank discussion on whether the Moon Treaty contains solutions still valid or

requires a re-shaping in order to adapt it to the new frontiers of space law, taking into account the law of this precedent but also have international legal regimes concerning areas beyond national jurisdictions.

Mr. Chairman, another point of interest for the Italian delegation is the inclusion of the new item on general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. We are convinced that, in fact, to this examination apart from its informative value would allow the Subcommittee to scrutinize the main developments taking place at national level all around the world. Perhaps we will be able to identify common principles, norms and procedures that apply with the main building blocks of national space legislation, namely authorization for private activities in outer space, compensation for damages and registration of space objects without excluding other areas covered by national legislation, such as remote sensing, communications and direct broadcasting.

We fully support the presentation by member States on reports of their national legislation according to our work plan for the period of 2008-2011. We are confident that this exercise will have the same positive results that lead the General Assembly to adopt resolution 62/101 of 7 December 2007 on recommendations on announcing the status(?) of States and international organizations in registering space objects.

Mr. Chairman, as you will remember my delegation informed the Subcommittee in 2007 that the main developments occurred in Italy in the field of space legislation was a consequence of the acceptance by Italy in 2005 of the Convention of Registration of Objects Launched Into Outer Space. In fact, Law No. 153 of 12 July 2005 on the Registration of Space Objects has been adopted. According to this law, the Italian Space Agency is entrusted with the institution and custody of the National Registry for Objects Launched Into Outer Space. In order to implement the legal framework, the competent authorities, namely the Minister of the Scientific Research and the Minister of the Foreign Affairs agreed to entrust the Italian Space Agency with the adoption of the required regulations on the National Registry where space objects covered by the scope of the law have to be filled.

In 2007, two Italian Cosmos-SkyMed satellites have been successfully launched from the United States _____(?) in California while the launch of a third Italian satellite, AGILE, or Agile, if you like, took place from the Indian base Shiharicot(?). These launches have been notified to the United

Nations Secretary-General in conformity with the Registration Convention. And I am glad to inform you that Italy will soon notify the United Nations of the establishment of a National Registry of Space Objects in conformity with Article 2 of the Registration Convention.

Mr. Chairman, the main achievements of the Italian Space Programme in 2007 within the field of sectors of Earth observation, telecommunication, navigation, manned space flights, medicine and biotechnology, space transport and education have been already demonstrated by the Italian delegation during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and I do not want to repeat them here. But it is relevant now is that all these developments lead to increased national activities in outer space and confirm the opportunity for an appropriate national legal framework. This is why we are continuing our efforts in order to shape a comprehensive legislation on space activities, mainly addressing the requirements of which by Article 6 of the Outer Space Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, touching upon another item including in the agenda of the Subcommittee, namely examination and review of the developments concerning the Draft Protocol on Matters Specific to Space Assets to the Cape Town Convention, it is well-known that the Italian Government has supported from the beginning the work done by UNIDROIT in this field. During 2007, we seconded all the initiatives aiming at allowing a new meeting of the UNIDROIT Committee of Governmental Experts on the Space Assets Protocol which held its last session, as you will remember, in October 2004. As the Protocol to Aircraft Equipment already in force is fully providing its capacity to serve the user community. We look forward to the compilation of the negotiations concerning the Protocol Specific to Space Assets in order to complete the original design of the Cape Town Convention.

In this light, the Italian delegation would like to mention the special intersessional meeting between governments and industry representatives held in New York on 19 and 20 June 2007 with a view to bringing said Protocol to a timely completion.

We also want to remind of the decision taken by the General Assembly of UNIDROIT member States at its sixty-first session held in Rome on 29 November 2007 to establish a Steering Committee to build consensus around the provisional conclusions reached by the New York Intersessional Meeting. Despite these efforts, consideration of the key and

outstanding issues with respect to the preliminary draft Protocol is still needed, particularly in the light of the conclusions to be drawn from the intersessional meetings. This is why a new meeting of the Steering Committee has been recently convened by UNIDROIT. We are confident that this further step should really build the perspective(?) final consensus on the controversial issues at stake.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the new item to be included in the agenda of the Subcommittee, my delegation welcomes the endorsement by the General Assembly of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines approved by the COPUOS. We are highly committed to implement it on a voluntary basis space debris limitation and mitigation measures and we are convinced that additional efforts should be made in this field in order to ensure safer activities in outer space for countries, secure from harmful interference in conformity with Article 9 of the Outer Space Treaty. In this perspective, we support the inclusion of a new agenda item concerning the exchange of information of national regulatory monitoring(?) measures to mitigate space debris and voluntary implementation of the COPUOS Guidelines.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of Italy, Professor Sergio Marchisio, for your statement on behalf of your country. I believe that everybody is well aware about the continuing support of Italy to the Legal Subcommittee and its aims and we also have heard about the support of the Italian delegation to the new items on the agenda of our Subcommittee but particularly to the item on capacity-building in space law and that the support of the idea that this item should remain on the agenda of our Subcommittee beyond the forty-seventh session of this body.

We also mentioned the Italian support undertaken in relation to item 6 of our agenda, namely the efforts to discuss the methods relating to the five United Nations space treaties and the particular interest of the Italian delegation in a debate concerning the reason why only a limited number of countries have accepted in the 1979 Agreement on the Moon.

Then the statement of the Italian delegation emphasized the importance of the new item to be discussed under a work plan, namely the general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space and the possibility to identify during these discussions common principles, norms and procedures

that might be applied within the main building blocks of national space legislation.

We also heard with great interest about the development of national legislation in Italy itself, about the acceptance by Italy in 2005 of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched Into Outer Space and the establishment in this connection of the regulations relating to the National Registry of Italy, the care of which was entrusted to the Italian Space Agency.

Then the statement also touched the issue of the UNIDROIT efforts to accomplish the Space Protocol to the 2001 Cape Town Convention and we are aware that Italy is a country that supported from the very beginning the work of UNIDROIT in this field. And we are grateful to the distinguished delegate of Italy for his information about further proceedings in this particular point that have been effected last year and are expected still to be effected this year.

Finally, the statement of the Italian delegation also mentioned the support to the adoption of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and an interesting suggestion that was made in this connection, namely the support of the delegation of Italy of the inclusion of a new agenda item concerning the exchange of information on national regulatory measures to mitigate space debris and voluntary implementation of the COPUOS Guidelines.

I would like also to thank the distinguished representative of Italy for his kind words addressed to the Chair, addressed to the former Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee, Ambassador Raimundo González Aninat, during the last two years, and, of course, also to the briefing addressed to Dr. Mazlan Othman, the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and to the Office, of course, as a whole.

Thank you very much distinguished representative of Italy and I now give the floor to the last speaker that has been inscribed on our list of speakers, namely to the distinguished representative of Iran.

Mr. R. POURMAND TEHRANI (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. Your valuable esteem and relevant experience offer an advantage to the study for a successful work. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran assures you of its fullest cooperation.

My delegation's appreciation also extends to Madam Mazlan Othman and her able colleagues in the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the efforts they have made to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, Iran signed and ratified an Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and Return of Objects Launched Into Outer Space in 1968 and the Convention on the National Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects in 1972.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also signed the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies in 1967, and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched Into Outer Space in 1975.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches a great importance to common efforts at international, regional and sub-regional levels that can lead to the further enhancement of cooperative activities and programmes in the field of peaceful uses of outer space.

The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that developing a comprehensive international legal framework for outer space is an essential regulatory requirement. It is to uphold the appropriate use of outer space for the benefit of humanity and particularly for the _____ization(?) of outer space as the common heritage of humankind. Such a legal framework is based on the principles of the sovereign equality of all States for the peaceful uses of outer space as stipulated in the General Assembly resolution 1348(?) on 13 December 1958.

Moreover, Iran is fully convinced that the further development of outer space programmes and activities should be built on a solid legal background. In this context, capacity-building measures in the field of space law are of great importance.

Mindful of the above-mentioned facts, the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted the First Workshop on Space Law on 17 and 18 November 2007 in Tehran. The Workshop was organized by the Iranian Space Agency, ISA, organized and received a broad participation from Iran and abroad, including the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and experts from China, Hong Kong, France and Netherlands.

The 16 participants of the Workshop were mainly the post-graduate students in the field of

international relations and law who are researchers in the field of international and space law and working on the development of the national space legislations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has also recently taken some other steps to further promote the space law, including the establishment of a Research Centre in cooperation with Iranian universities. Last year, in 2007, the Iranian Parliament ratified a legislation for establishment of the Centre for Astronautic Science Studies, as an affiliate to the Iranian Space Agency, ISA.

We hope the outcome of such measures help us to effectively contribute to the law-making process pertaining to outer space activities at the international level.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for your statement. I think it was very useful for us that you reminded us that the Space Treaty that has been ratified by Iran, or signed, by your Government, that is also an evidence of extension of the adoption of the international legal basis for space activities by your country.

We also have heard your firm belief in the development here or a comprehensive international legal framework for outer space and that it is an essential regulatory requirement. In this respect, you referred to the General Resolution adopted already in 1958 in which the principle of the sovereign equality of all States for peaceful uses of outer space was stipulated.

I think that also the fact that the First Workshop on Space Law was organized in the Islamic Republic of Iran and was effected in November last year is relevant and significant. And it is also important that some foreign experts were invited and you also invited the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs to be represented there.

In the relations of the building of the capacity in the field of space law, your information about the establishment of research centres in cooperation with Iranian universities was essential and also the announcement that the Iranian Government ratified a legislation for establishment the Centre for Astronautics Science Studies is a very positive announcement.

Once again, thank you for your statement on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran and I also thank you for your kind words addressed to the Chair and to Madam Mazlan Othman, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the United Nations. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, this has brought us to the end of our list of speakers. Is there any other delegation wishing to make a presentation under the item General Exchange of Views because this is the last opportunity to speak about this particular item.

I see no application. I see none.

So under the circumstances, I would like now to give the opportunity to the distinguished observer for the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization, EUTELSAT IGO, to make his own contribution on behalf of his international organization to our discussions. Please distinguished observer for EUTELSAT, you have the floor.

Mr. C. ROISSE (European Telecommunications Satellite Organization, EUTELSAT IGO) (*interpretation from French*): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to start off by congratulating you on your election to preside over the Legal Subcommittee. And my words of congratulations would also go to Mrs. Othman on her appointment to head the Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna.

Let me take this occasion to speak on EUTELSAT IGO and explain why we are a candidate organization.

The European Satellite Telecommunications Organization was created in 1977 in the form of an intergovernmental organization to provide Europe with a structure providing telecommunication services. The EUTELSAT Convention was opened for signature in July 1982 and entered into force in September 1985 and EUTELSAT thus became a permanent organization.

Once the principle and modalities of transforming this organization were adopted by consensus, which occurred by an Assembly decision in 1999, it was decided that in July 2001, all activities, operational and all commitments of intergovernmental EUTELSAT would thus be transferred to a company under French corporate law, EUTELSAT S.A., created to that end. The Convention was amended with the agreement of States Parties and the amendments entered into force in a final manner on 28 November 2002. Since its conversion, the Organization adapted

the structure, the role, the mission and the methods it applies to the technological and commercial aspects and also the satellite markets. Forty-eight European States are party to the EUTELSAT Convention thus far.

On its present structure, EUTELSAT, as an international organization, has the following bodies: the Assembly of Parties to the EUTELSAT Convention, an Executive Secretary, which was a permanent body headed by the Executive Secretary with the term of four years. The Assembly of Parties meets every two years and there is an Advisory Committee meeting on a half yearly basis.

The essential role of this Organization is two-fold. One task is to make sure that EUTELSAT S.A., as a company, is fully in line with the commitments entered into upon conversion and these commitments have to do with the respect for basic principles defined in the amended Convention, in keeping with the provisions of Article 3 of that amended Convention. EUTELSAT IGO ensures that the company complies with the following basic principles: provision of a public service, universal service, since audio visual services must be provided in respect of international agreements and national agreements, the European Convention on Trans-Border TV Programmes and the Universal Service for the Information Society. The company must furthermore be in abidance with the Pan-European Coverage Principles by a Satellite System, this meaning that the company must be able to provide its services on an economic basis for all zones where there are communication requirements in the 48 member States.

There is a non-discrimination principle that likewise applies according to which services are provided to users by the company on an equitable basis and in keeping with legislation in force. And finally, the company must conform with all laws and legislation in terms of fair competence. It must comply with loyal competition requirements in particular.

Furthermore, the international organization must maintain rights on frequencies and orbital positions internationally obtained with the ITU prior to 2001, prior to the conversion of EUTELSAT. These rights are retained jointly by member States on the one hand, and to ensure the role of supervision in respect of EUTELSAT S.A. will have entered into arrangements, agreements or provisions such that the relationship is effectively implemented. It is either in the amended Convention or/and its provisions, setting out the principles of such supervision. So it is not an issue of regulating EUTELSAT activities, it is rather a

supervisory role. These principles are more detailed in the context of an arrangement entered into between the Organization and the company establishing how we may define the basic principles.

Then an Agreement Letter was signed with EUTELSAT Communications. EUTELSAT Communications is the holding company above EUTELSAT S.A. and which went public in 2005. And in the context of the Agreement Letter, there are a certain number of commitments for the holders of equity holding 95 per cent of the capital. So these shareholders and dividend distribution, the edit(?) rate that should not go beyond 3.75 per cent future financial arrangements for EUTELSAT. That should, of course, cover appropriate financial provisions, a mandate that would not be contrary to the practice of the market, sound management of the group, and minimum capital or assets in terms of EUTELSAT S.A.

Furthermore, we have a Joint Commission, bringing together the Organization, or at least its standing body, represented by the Executive Secretary, and representatives of EUTELSAT S.A., to see how these obligations are met.

And finally, two last items. In the statutory texts of EUTELSAT and EUTELSAT Communications, there are such provisions that point to explicit reference to the amended EUTELSAT Convention and certain international obligations that we have in regard of the company.

Finally, in the context of the relationship established with EUTELSAT S.A. and EUTELSAT Communications, it was accepted that I should have the censor(?) post in both structures, EUTELSAT for Satellites and commercial arrangements, with all operational activities. And that for EUTELSAT Communications, the holding company, as I have explained, this would also be true.

In addition to commitments entered into by the company, in respect of the Organization and the rights and obligations established to that effect, the international organization takes action as a partner, in many cases, of EUTELSAT S.A. So not just contracts or particular provisions are involved that compel this Organization to act in a certain amount. Also to the extent that this is possible, positive steps should be taken to help EUTELSAT S.A. without, of course, calling into question competition-related areas.

Let me know say a few words on the environment surrounding EUTELSAT as an international organization. EUTELSAT is recognized

as an official entity, as an IIOS, and in that respect, participated in the CMR's recent deliberations in 2007. EUTELSAT, as an international organization, is in keeping with the regulatory changes within member States. It establishes and maintains relationships with ITSO and IMSO, the parallel bodies that are identical in that they emanated from the conversion of the other two intergovernmental organizations in the area of satellites in MARSAT and INTELSAT.

And finally, this Organization monitors regulatory and legislative developments or in French law where this Organization is established in France.

As for the application for observer status, which was put to the United Nations COPUOS, it is a result of the decision of our Assembly of Parties, taken in May 2007, I draw attention to the fact that in the original Convention text amended, there is an explicit reference to the 1967 Treaty. Since 1997, EUTELSAT, as was its obligations since it was also enshrined in the Convention, did whatever was necessary, vis-à-vis, member States to accept the 1972 Convention on Liability for Objects Launched Into Outer Space.

And in the case of the 1975 text, I am in a position to say at this point in time, that we have a majority of our membership at this point in time also party to the Registration Convention '26(?). And if I take the most recent list that was distributed with the document on the treaties, therefore, when I return to Paris, I will certainly address a letter to the parties to inform them, bring this to their attention, and also write to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Office for Outer Space Affairs to inform all that EUTELSAT will take upon itself the rights and obligations under this instrument.

Since, in 2001, there was an amendment, be it for the rights and obligations such that EUTELSAT, as an operational organization, is a launching State for all satellites launched prior to 2001. While in the same manner, on the issue of registration and the registry of all satellites, those will apply to all satellites launched prior to 2001, thus far, because of a temporary Agreement with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we had this registered on the French Registry under the name of the Organization because EUTELSAT was not able to directly accept and discharge these duties.

Finally, and for information purposes only, I would like to say that I am, myself, a legal expert. I work in space activities. For the past 20 years I have done that. I was Legal Director of the international

organization. I conducted the conversion of the Organization. Following that, I was the Legal Director of the Secretary of the EUTELSAT S.A. Board. And finally, I was elected, by consensus, to the post of Executive Secretary. In my personal capacity, I am a member of the Board of the French Space Law Association and also a member of the European Centre on Space Law and of the International Institute for Space Law.

I think that has brought me to the end of my presentation, Mr. Chairman, but I remain available for questions and queries. I would like to thank distinguished delegates for their attention and thank the Secretariat for the logistic aid which was most useful. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you distinguished observer speaking on behalf of EUTELSAT and thank you for bringing the detailed information to our attention having to do with the development and activities and the events that marked the history of your Organization.

We would like to congratulate you on your election to your present duties as Executive Secretary of this important organization.

May I merely say that we very much appreciate the relationship between your Organization and COPUOS and how it has been coming along.

In your preamble, or the introduction to the Convention, of your Convention text that is, there is a reference to the Outer Space Treaty and that you have accepted the rights and obligations, also Liability and Damage, and that at this point in time, you are considering the rights and obligations of the Convention on Registration that your Organization might enter into. And we are awaiting, since you promised to send us correspondence after you return, so we are awaiting this with great impatience.

Yet again, thank you very much indeed for that contribution.

(*Continued in English*) I still have two applications for the discussion on general exchange of views, namely that of Greece and that of Belgium, so Greece has the floor now.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*): Yes thank you very much Chairman. I wanted not so much to set out our point of view on this, rather simply I would like to restate what I said at our last session of the Scientific

and Technical Subcommittee as regards EUTELSAT's request to become a COPUOS observer. We are very pleased to receive the Organization which was more represents the space and telecommunications sector in Europe. We look very favourably at that at the idea of EUTELSAT becoming a permanent observer in the Plenary and to this Subcommittee. That is why I wish to have the floor at this stage. Thank you Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much. Many thanks to the distinguished representative for that information, a very important piece of information for us.

Let me know give the floor, if I may, to the distinguished representative of Belgium.

Mr. J.-F. MAYENCE (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*): Yes thank you very much Chairman. My delegation would like to endorse what was just said by the delegation of Greece in welcoming EUTELSAT and saying just how important we think it is that such organizations be present here. We are delighted that EUTELSAT is on the point of accepting the rights and obligations of one of the most important Conventions because it is so active in this. We are thinking about the Convention of 1975.

I have a small question Chairman as regards precisely the participation of the acceptance by EUTELSAT of this. Now the representation of EUTELSAT, at the end of his presentation said that until 2001, the registration of satellites launched by EUTELSAT was done by France. If I understood correctly what he said, so EUTELSAT has to take up again registration which, until 2001, was done on its behalf by France. So my question is, what is the legal basis which will be used by EUTELSAT to resume registration which has already been done for France? I am thinking about the international registration system but I would like to know what will the legal basis be for this registration, and if this legal registration can be found in the 1975 Convention, according to EUTELSAT.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): Thank you very much distinguished representative of Belgium and thank you also for the question that you put because it is a very interesting point, a very significant one for us. So perhaps we could ask the Secretariat to respond. I know it may not be possible to do so straightaway but nonetheless we would appreciate a reply in the course of this session. Thank you.

Yes, we will come back to this matter. Thank you.

(*Continued in English*) Is there any other question or comment relating to this and former presentations that have been made during this morning on item 5 of our agenda.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (agenda item 6)

I see none and, therefore, I would like now to suggest that to continue our consideration of item 6 on our agenda, namely on the item Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. And we have on our list some speakers and I will give the floor to the first of them and it is the distinguished representative of the United States of America.

Mr. M. SIMONOFF (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the four core treaties governing the use of outer space, the Outer Space Treaty, the Agreement on the Rescue and Return of Astronauts, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention have served States Party well over many decades. The United States is honoured to serve as one of the depositaries of three of these treaties, the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue and Return Agreement, and the Liability Convention.

I have consulted with the State Department's Treaty Office regarding actions with respect to these treaties and can report that, since the Subcommittee's last meeting in April 2007, our Treaty Office received on 26 April 2007 an instrument of ratification of the Rescue and Return Agreement by Turkey.

We would welcome any further information from other depositaries on any relevant treaty actions since this Subcommittee's last meeting.

We would also welcome further adherence to these treaties and hope that those States and international organizations, including some members of COPUOS and some organizations that participate as observers to this Subcommittee, that have not yet become party to these treaties, would carefully consider their status with respect to them in the coming year.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of the United States of America for your very useful information about the role and fulfilment of the role of the United States as

far as three of the United Nations space treaties are concerned, the role of one of the depositaries of the treaties. And, of course, for us very pleasant is the fact that your information about the ratification of the Rescue and Return Agreement by Turkey and we fully support your idea to other nations to consider the possibility of accession, or ratification if you wish, of other United Nations space treaties.

Thank you once again and I now give the floor to the distinguished representative of Bulgaria.

Mr. D. CHAKAROV (Bulgaria): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Allow me first, on behalf of the Bulgarian delegation, to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee. We believe that under your leadership, this Subcommittee will achieve substantial progress.

My delegation would also like to congratulate Dr. Othman on her appointment as the new Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, Bulgaria is a party to the four fundamental treaties on outer space, the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue and Return Agreement, the Liability and the Registration Convention.

We share the view that it is a question of great importance to continue our efforts in the framework of the Legal Subcommittee towards universal acceptance of the international legal regime governing activities in outer space.

For the Bulgarian party, the application and the implementation of the five United Nations treaties on outer space is also an important issue. According to Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, an international treaty which has been ratified according to a procedure established by the Constitution, is a part of the internal domestic law. Any such treaty takes priority over any conflicting standards of domestic legislation. Therefore, the international space treaties, to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party, are part of the domestic legal framework.

The domestic legal framework governing the matters for space research is also regulated by the Council of Ministers Decree of 1997 on establishing an Inter-Agency Commission on Space Research. The Commission is composed of representatives of the State Agency for Information, Technology and Communications, the Bulgarian Academy of Science, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, the Ministry of Environment and Water and other governmental bodies.

Bulgaria allows _____(?) research institutes and representatives of for profit and not-for-profit legal entities to participate in its meetings. The involvement of such a broad range of institutions enable the conduct of an _____(?) policy in this field of space research for peaceful purposes.

The Inter-Agency Commission on Space Research reports directly to the Government and is an advisory body for the conduct of the State policy in the framework of space research. In this regard, I want to inform you that at the end of December 2007, the Commission adopted a legislation(?) of _____(?) for space research and applied activities for the period of 2007-2013. We believe that that programme will allow to intensify Bulgarian space activities and to emerge with national corporations in the framework of scientific research of space.

In conclusion, I want to inform you that the efforts of the Bulgarian Government are orientated into the conduct of an important model policy in the sphere of space research for peaceful purposes. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of Bulgaria for your statement on behalf of your country in which you have expressed the full support of your country for the United Nations space treaties, of which four of these treaties are now a part of the law of your land because you have incorporated in your Constitution the principle that international law is a part of the internal domestic law.

I also recorded that your information about the establishment of an Inter-Agency Commission on Space Research by the Decree of the Council of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and on the adoption by the end of December 2007 of a new national programme for space research and applied activities for the period of 2007 to 2013 by the Inter-Agency Commission on Space Research in your country.

Thank you very much once again and also for your kind words addressed to the Chair and to the Director of the Office of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law (agenda item 7)

I no longer have any application of speakers for this particular item on our agenda and, therefore, I believe that we can now proceed with the discussion on Article 7 and to continue our consideration of the agenda, not article 7, agenda item 7. So it is information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.

I see again that on this particular item we have an application from the United States of America on item 7, to speak on item 7. You have the floor distinguished representative of the United States of America.

Mr. M. SIMOFF (United States of America): Thank you again Mr. Chairman. The activities of international organizations relating to space law is significant and has contributed much to the development of the field. Many States activities rely on regional or global cooperation and such cooperation has enhanced the abilities of individual States to improve and advance space activities and technologies.

International organizations also have an important role to play in the strengthening of the legal framework applicable to space activity. They can consider steps they can take to encourage their members to adhere to the four core outer space treaties so as to bring the activities of the international organizations within the framework of the treaties.

The outer space treaties were drawn up in full awareness of the possibility of international organizations conducting space activities. Indeed, several of the treaties contain mechanisms to permit international intergovernmental organizations to conduct space activities or that conduct space activities to do so within the framework of the treaties.

The Rescue and Return Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention each contain provisions specific to international intergovernmental organizations.

Several important international intergovernmental organizations are not operating within the treaties because not enough of their members have become party to both the Outer Space Treaty and, respectively, to either the Rescue and Return Agreement, the Liability Convention or the Registration Convention.

As the framework established by the Rescue and Return Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention is an important and

beneficial one to the global conduct of space activities. It is desirable for international organizations to conduct their space activities under the coverage of these significant instruments.

We hope that international intergovernmental organizations that conduct space activities will consider steps they can take to bring their activities within the umbrella of the Rescue and Return Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention.

We believe that doing so could produce a useful improvement in the coverage and effectiveness of the outer space treaties.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of the United States for your contribution regarding agenda item 7 and I believe that it is needless to emphasize how important for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee is the participation of international organizations in the United Nations space treaties, especially in the three treaties that you have mentioned and enumerated in your statement on this item. I believe that we have to see that, we ought, that for the next development, for it is the development in this respect, important is the participation of member States of international organizations in the United Nations space treaties, particularly in the main Treaty of 1967 because this would pave the way for a possible interest and steps of the international organizations concerned to accept the rights and obligations of the United Nations space treaties by the international organizations themselves.

Thank you very much for your statement on this important point.

I do not have any other delegation of member States of the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee to honour this item but I have here an application of an observer and it is the international organization of Space Communications, INTERSPUTNIK, to whom I give the floor to the observer for this organization.

Ms. E. MOROZOVA (International Space Communications, INTERSPUTNIK): Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure to welcome you as Chairman of the forty-seventh session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I am certain that under your guidance this will be a very productive and fruitful session.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Mazlan Othman on the appointment as Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and to wish Dr. Othman all the success in this position.

Distinguished Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the INTERSPUTNIK International Organization of Space Communications was established under the International Intergovernmental Agreement of 15 November 1971 as a mandate by the Protocol of an Amendment to the Agreement on the Establishment of INTERSPUTNIK of 1 November 2002.

Today INTERSPUTNIK has a governance(?) of 25 States as its full members. Official representatives of the Republic of Angola confirmed their interest for joining the Organization. The governments of the INTERSPUTNIK member countries appointed _____(?) national telecommunications organizations and telecommunications administrations, 20 INTERSPUTNIK signatures.

In March 2007, the Government of Romania appointed a Romanian National Radiocommunications Company the INTERSPUTNIK signatory from Romania. The Ministry of Information Technologies and Communication of the Russian Federation provided its status as a signatory to the Russian satellite communications company. At the same time, the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications continued to represent the Government of Russia as the member of the INTERSPUTNIK Organization.

In November 2007, the Federal Ministry of Economy and Technologies for the Federal Republic of Germany appointed _____ (*not clear*) INTERSPUTNIK's second signatory from the Federal Republic of Germany.

The phase-by-phase prioritization of the Organization is currently involved in the establishment of a group of companies that take care of the bulk of INTERSPUTNIK's core business that serve the purpose of business diversification.

A year has past since the actual start-up of our subsidiary. The first year of operation of INTERSPUTNIK Holding confirms that the decision to establish the private subsidiary was quite correct. In just one year the company SMOLTIN(?) managed to elaborate and apply a business strategy for the development of the group, develop new value added

products and services that supplement the list of INTERSPUTNIK's business offers(?). Currently, the primary source of the INTERSPUTNIK Holding revenues is the Russian company INSATEL(?) that managed to become a noticeable player on the Russian telecommunications market. In October 2007, INTERSPUTNIK Holding entered the Central Asian market through its KIRIGIS(?) subsidiary.

Today, all companies of the INTERSPUTNIK's group and are profitable and do business in various countries while focusing on business development in the INTERSPUTNIK member countries according to INTERSPUTNIK's strategic goals.

At its fifth meeting in April 2007, the Operations Committee of INTERSPUTNIK accepted the proposal from the Russian satellite telecommunication company to elaborate draft amendments to the Operating Agreement. When working out such amendments, the Directorate proceeded from the Committees more than two years working experience and set as a task to make the Operations Agreement functional through these amendments.

At its sixth meeting in November 2007, the INTERSPUTNIK Operations Committee approved amendments to the INTERSPUTNIK Operating Agreement and resolved to apply the INTERSPUTNIK Operating Agreement as a mandate on a provisional basis until it is approved by the Board at its next session to be held in April 2008.

The most important sections of the Operating Agreement were amended as follows.

The concept of the share capital has been simplified. The status of the signatory was modified. The term signatory has a broader definition meaning not only telecommunications administrations on national telecommunications companies but also other competent government authorities and national companies engaged not only in telecommunications but also in other communications business.

Information and functioning of the Operations Committee, INTERSPUTNIK gave out the principle of forming the Committee from among the limited number of signatories and thus the principle of the aggregate road(?) of the signatures.

According to the Operating Agreement as amended, the Committee consists of all signatures, each with one vote.

As a pre_____ (?) (prerequisite?) (privatization?) this settlement procedure using ad hoc arbitration was replaced with a clear and transparent procedure consisting of several stages and allowing signatories to settle potential disputes most efficiently and quickly.

The approval of an amended version of the Operating Agreement by the Operations Committee was the logical compilation of the Directorate two-year (?) _____ will make an effort aimed at revising and full updating INTERSPUTNIK's regulatory structure and all important regulatory documents.

In July 2007, the Directorate requested the Institute of Law and Comparative Jurisprudence under the Government of the Russian Federation to clarify INTERSPUTNIK's international legal status. Following certain research, the Institute drew the following official conclusions.

INTERSPUTNIK is an international personable organization with its own evolution and equitable subject and international law. This means that INTERSPUTNIK's legal capacity is independent of the evolution of any State. The States that signed the Agreement on the establishment of INTERSPUTNIK is contracting _____ (?) already expressed the evolution and agreed to establish INTERSPUTNIK and authorize these activities in their territories. This means that any submission of INTERSPUTNIK to domestic laws for INTERSPUTNIK to acquire a legal capacity would be a violation of international treaty by a given State. Under the Agreement on its establishment, INTERSPUTNIK enjoys the rights of the legal entity but it is not a legal entity from the viewpoint of domestic laws of the member States.

The laws of the member States where INTERSPUTNIK does business are applicable exclusively to issues not governed by an Agreement on the establishment of INTERSPUTNIK or agreements with competent bodies of the member States where INTERSPUTNIK does business.

Distinguished Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, thank you very much for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished observer for INTERSPUTNIK on the present status and development within this international intergovernmental organization. We have taken note of the approval of the Protocol on

Amendments to the Agreement on the Establishment of INTERSPUTNIK of the phase-by-phase privatization of this Organization which is embodied in the establishment of a group of companies. And also on the amendment being prepared for the Operating Agreement of this Organization that concerns some important sections such as the concept of share capital, the status of the signatory, information and functioning of the Operations Committee and the dispute settlement procedure.

Also the final principle that you derived from the present amendment and changes has been important for us. I, myself, I would have a minor question if possible. You say in the first paragraph on Page 6 that INTERSPUTNIK is an international personable organization. What do you mean by this objective personable organization? Because, allow me to put this question, I also teach on international organizations at the University, I see this term for the first time.

Ms. E. MOROZOVA (International Space Communications, INTERSPUTNIK): Just to finish, it means that the INTERSPUTNIK International Organization of Space Communications has its own volition (?) (evolution?) independent from the volition (?) of its States members.

The CHAIRMAN: It means that it is a subject of international or international personality of your own? Do I understand it correctly?

Ms. E. MOROZOVA (International Space Communications, INTERSPUTNIK): Yes, you are absolutely right.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Thank you very much for your statement and also for your answering my question and I also thank you for the kind words that you addressed to the Chair and to the Director of the Office.

I think we no longer have any speaker either from among the delegations or from among the observers on this particular item.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting so that the Working Group on Agenda Item 6 could hold its second meeting. 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. At that time we will continue our consideration of agenda item

6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, and agenda item 7, Information on the Activities of International Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations Relating to Space Law. We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 9, Nuclear Power Sources. And time permitting, the Working Group under item 6 will hold its third meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Vassilios Cassapoglou of Greece.

I would like to inform again the delegates that at 7.00 p.m. there will be a reception by the Czech Republic at the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations and other international organizations here in Vienna. And this Mission is located in Penzingerstrasse 11-13. It means that it is rather distant from this place. Nevertheless, there is a very good Metro connection from here. First by U1 to Schwedenplatz, and from Schwedenplatz by U4 up to Grinzing. And from Grinzing you will walk a few minutes only to our Permanent Mission. Heizing, sorry. And I repeat once again that all the delegations, all the observers and, of course, the Director of the Office and all staff members of the Office serving here for this particular session are warmly invited to participate.

I would also like to remind only the beginning of this Reception is at 7.00 p.m.

I would also like to remind delegations that the Secretariat has circulated the Provisional List of Participants so kindly provide us with possible corrections to the Provisional List of Participants which was distributed as Conference Room Paper No. 2 by the end of Monday 7 April, if such corrections are necessary, of course.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

Yes, the distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I see that we are 12.45 p.m. so it is less than a quarter of an hour to deal with our business, our job. So I propose, with your kind permission, for you, the colleagues, to adjourn and come back because we need at least half an hour, three quarters of an hour to discuss all the items within our Working Group agenda, which is not _____(?) the agenda. So please may I propose to adjourn or to continue, if you wish, but to adjourn our meeting session for this afternoon. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chairman of the Working Group, if it is your request, of course, I am ready to meet this request and to agree with you. I fully agree that the time that has been available for your Working Group up to now was rather limited, very limited, and only quarters of hour or tens of minutes or something like that. Perhaps I would have a request to our Secretary of the Subcommittee. How much time will be available for the Working Group this afternoon, approximately?

Ms. S. PAYMAN(?) (Secretary, Working Group on the Status of Treaties?): As we stand, the entire time we have no speakers registered for this afternoon. At the moment, no speakers.

The CHAIRMAN: No speakers for this afternoon. It looks quite optimistic. You have heard it and you will have the full afternoon, if not the full afternoon, a substantive part of this afternoon.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece): Thank you very much. It is also good news for our interpreters in the boots. Bon Appetite.

The CHAIRMAN; Thank you very much. I think that there are no other questions, no other comments for this schedule. It is accepted and this meeting is now adjourned until 3.00 p.m. this afternoon.

The meeting adjourned at 12.46 p.m.