

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

Unedited transcript

771st Meeting

Thursday, 3 April 2008, 10 a.m.

Vienna

Chairman: Mr. V. Kopal (Czech Republic)

The meeting was called to order at 10.12 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Good morning distinguished delegates. I now declare open the 771st 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 our consideration of agenda item 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, and agenda item 7, ... please switch off your mobile ..., agenda item 7, Information on the Activities of International Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations Relating to Space Law.

We will also continue our consideration of agenda item 9, Nuclear Power Sources. We will begin consideration of agenda item 8(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

The Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space will hold its first meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil.

Time permitting, the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space will hold its third meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Vassilios Cassapoglou of Greece.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule?

I see none.

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

So let us start with the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, agenda item 6.

Distinguished delegates, I do not have any speaker inscribed on the list of speakers for this morning. Is there any delegation wishing to speak on this agenda item now?

I do not see any delegation and, therefore, we will continue and hopefully conclude our consideration of agenda item 6, Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, this afternoon.

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

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, we will now proceed with item 7, Information on the Activities of International Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations Relating to Space Law.

Neither here do I have any speaker inscribed on the list of speakers on this particular item, item 7. Is there any delegation wishing to speak or perhaps any observer wishing to speak on this particular item?

I see none and, therefore, we will proceed with the following item.

In its resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that, beginning with its thirty-ninth session, the Committee would be provided with unedited transcripts in lieu of verbatim records. This record contains the texts of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages as transcribed from taped recordings. The transcripts have not been edited or revised.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week of the date of publication, to the Chief, Conference Management Service, Room D0771, United Nations Office at Vienna, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria. Corrections will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.



Hopefully we will conclude agenda item 7 this afternoon.

Nuclear power sources (agenda item 9)

Now we will proceed with agenda item 9, Nuclear Power Sources, agenda item 9.

Again, is there ..., yes, I have a contribution from the United States of America. You have the floor Sir.

Mr. M. SIMONOFF (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the standing agenda item is a welcome opportunity to share my delegation's views regarding the Legal Subcommittee's consideration of the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in space.

First, I would like to commend the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for its continued work on this topic. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its meeting in February of 2007, reached consensus to pursue a joint effort with the IAEA to develop an International Safety Framework for the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

At that time, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee outlined a new three-year Work Plan for its Working Group on Nuclear Power Sources which enables a Joint Group of Experts from interested member States of both the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the IAEA to develop a Safety Framework for review and approval by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and IAEA in 2010.

We applaud the progress of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in this regard and note that at its 2008 session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee approved the draft Framework, developed by the Joint Experts Group, for distribution to member States and to the IAEA for comment.

We look forward to the completion of the current Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Work Plan in the achievement of an international consensus on a technically-based framework for space nuclear power source applications.

We do not object to keeping a reference to this agenda item on next year's Legal Subcommittee agenda to track the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for your consideration of the United States' views on this agenda item.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished representative of the United States of America for your contribution to this point. I certainly agree with you that the progress reached in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as to further proceedings with a difficult item is certainly to be welcome and that we expect that the Joint Group of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Nuclear Agency will be very helpful and will reach the progress under the established Plan. And, of course, our Legal Subcommittee certainly will be interested to keep this item on its own agenda in order to follow what is being proceeded in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in order to prepare later on our own attitude to the results of this important work.

Any other delegation wishes to speak on this particular item?

I see none and, therefore, we could ... sorry, I did not see you. The distinguished representative of Korea has the floor.

Mr. J.-H. KIM (Republic of Korea): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman for allowing me the floor. Just briefly, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of enhancing the technical safety relating to the use of the nuclear power sources.

In the same vein, I would like to join the United States delegation in commending the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the work that it has done so far.

Nuclear power sources is very important and efficient resources that they may be used for space activities but, at the same time, we have to bear in mind the nature of this power source may lead to very dangerous damage to the human life as regards(?) space and Earth environment.

In this respect, I would like to express my delegation's hope that the joint efforts between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the IAEA will bear fruit and serve as a good example of international cooperation on this particular matter.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea for your contribution to the discussion on this item.

Is there any other delegation wishing to speak on this point?

I see none and, therefore, we will proceed with the consideration of item 9, Nuclear Power Sources, this afternoon.

We will now start the discussion on item 8(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

Mr. Secretary, do we have any speakers? No, we do not have any speaker yet.

Is there any delegation wishing to speak on item 8(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space here in the Subcommittee?

I see none and, therefore, we will continue the consideration on this item next time again this afternoon, planned also for this afternoon.

Distinguished delegates, I will shortly adjourn this meeting so that the Working Group on Agenda Item 8(a) can convene its first meeting under the chairmanship of Professor Monserrat Filho of Brazil.

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 and hopefully conclude 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 continue our consideration of agenda item 9, Nuclear Power Sources, and agenda item 8(a), the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

The Working on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space will hold its second meeting under the chairmanship of Professor Monserrat Filho of Brazil, and, time permitting, the Working Group under Item 6 will hold its fourth meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Vassilios Cassapoglou of Greece.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule for this afternoon?

I see none and, therefore, this meeting is adjourned until 3.00 p.m. in the afternoon and I am inviting Professor Monserrat Filho to chair the first meeting of his Working Group.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The meeting adjourned at 10.24 a.m.