

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

Unedited transcript

785th Meeting
Tuesday, 24 March 2009, 10 a.m.
Vienna

Chairman: *Mr. V. Kopal (Czech Republic)*

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning distinguished delegates, I now declare open the 785th 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 3, general exchange of views and begin our consideration of agenda item 4, status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. We will also begin our consideration of agenda item 5, information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law. Time permitting, the working group on item 4 will hold its first meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Vassilis Cassapoglou of Greece.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposed schedule? I see none.

So, distinguished delegates, I suggest we continue our consideration of item 3 on our agenda, general exchange of views.

Distinguished delegates, the first speaker on my list is the distinguished representative of Canada, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. M. BOURBONNIERE (Canada) (*interpretation from French*). Mr. Chairman, Canada looks forward to continuing to work under your able chairmanship for a successful 48th session of the Legal Subcommittee.

(*continued in English*) Mr. Chairman, the steady increase in space activities, either from States themselves or from private concerns, continues to present us with new and unique challenges with regard to the interpretation and implementation of the international legal framework governing such activities. While this legal framework can certainly be improved, Canada reiterates its strong support for the core United Nations conventions on outer space and welcomes initiatives aimed at strengthening them. Canada trusts that the work of the Legal Subcommittee will ultimately contribute to building a more secure and accessible space environment and, in that respect, Canada looks forward to the day where the Committee starts to work on detailed guidelines for space traffic management.

Mr. Chairman, it has been an eventful couple of months in orbit. Collision of the Cosmos and Iridium satellites on 10 February 2009 generated debris that still poses a risk to all space objects. On 12 March 2009, astronauts aboard the International Space Station hastily took cover in preparation for a possible collision with space debris. Fortunately, no impact occurred. However this was not the first close call for the International Space Station which has had to resort to collision avoidance manoeuvres several times to avoid being struck by debris nor is it likely to be the last.

These events dramatically illustrate the gravity and urgency of the space debris dilemma. States ____ (?) aware that the continuing increase in debris could ultimately render the space environment unusable. In that respect, Canada strongly urges States to implement the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines

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adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007. Canada, like other nations, uses space for communications, research, remote sensing and other peaceful purposes. The Canadian delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its view that debris, that threatens the use of space, should be avoided and to invite all space-faring countries to mitigate the creation of debris in outer space.

Canada also supports, in principle, the development of guidelines for space traffic management.

(interpretation from French) Mr. Chairman, Canada believes that COPUOS and its subcommittees have a central role to play in responding to the challenges and opportunities posed by the international community's increased reliance on outer space. Canada favours the establishment of links between the various UN bodies with an interest in outer space including the International Telecommunication Union, the Conference on Disarmament and the UN General Assembly, particularly its First and Fourth Committees. While respecting the delineation that exists between the roles and responsibilities of these entities, Canada is encouraged by the fact that important linkages between the matters being examined and the Conference on Disarmament and COPUOS have been recognized. My country looks forward to seeing further cooperation along these lines, particularly since such activity is supportive of the One UN Initiative. The United Nations Interagency Meeting on Outer Space Activities is also a useful coordination forum and consideration should be given to expanding it.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, the Canadian delegation notes with satisfaction that a new item has been added to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee namely, general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures. It is the hope of the Canadian delegation that the exchange of information that will occur will bear fruit and reinforce the importance of such measures in contributing to the safety and accessibility of outer space for the benefit of all States.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much distinguished representative of Canada for your statement on item 3 of our agenda.

(continued in French) In your statement you underscored the very important points that are of interest to your delegation with regard to this

Committee's work. You also referred to the events that have occurred in recent months and emphasized the seriousness and the urgency of the problem of space debris.

You have also expressed your support, in principle, for putting in place guiding principles for orbital traffic. You mentioned the need for cooperation and coordination among various agencies of the United Nations system that have an interest in outer space and, particularly, you emphasized the need to promote coordination and cooperation between the UN Conference on Disarmament on the one hand and COPUOS on the other.

Finally, you expressed your delegation's satisfaction with the new agenda item added by the Legal Subcommittee specifically the issue of space debris.

Thank you very much and I now recognize the next delegation on my list, this is the distinguished representative of Brazil.

Mr. J. ZELNER GONÇALVES (Brazil). Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Brazilian delegation wishes, at the outset, to state its great pleasure in seeing you presiding over this important subcommittee once again. Under your wise leadership this will be a very successful meeting. Brazil pledges its full support and cooperation to the Committee and to your work. I would also like to extend sincere greetings to Dr. Mazlan Othman, Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, through her, Brazil also thanks all staff members of OOSA for the great efforts undertaken for this meeting.

Mr. Chairman, since we last gathered in the Subcommittee, Brazil was able to advance international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space with several countries and with very gratifying results. I will take this opportunity to mention some of these activities as well as the international agreements celebrated by Brazil and other countries in this area.

The joint activities with Russia related to the development of Brazilian launchers have advanced and, in November 2008 during the visit of the Russian president to Brazil, an agreement was reached between the space agencies of the two countries regarding the exploration of possibilities for cooperation in the use and development of the Global Satellite Navigation System (GLONASS). This cooperation has advanced in the last few months and we expect to see significant results in a very short time.

There has also been progress in discussions towards collaboration in telecommunication technology. The visit of the French president to Brazil, in December, allowed us the signing of a general cooperation programme between the Brazilian Space Agency and the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and of three additional documents related to technological cooperation in systems applied to multipurpose platforms, technological cooperation in geostationary systems for telecommunications, navigation and meteorology and Brazilian participation in the Global Precipitation Measurement project (GPM).

During the visit of the Brazilian president to Italy in November, the space agencies of the two countries signed a letter of intent that opened new opportunities of cooperation in several areas, space sciences, earth observation, space communications, stratosphere activities, as well as training and education.

In consonance with a significant increase in bilateral collaboration with India in the course of 2007 and as a result of high-level missions between the agencies of the two countries and the visit of the Brazilian president to New Delhi, a cooperation instrument was signed in April 2008 for the provision of Brazilian ground support to the Indian lunar mission Chandrayan-1. By October, on the occasion of the launch of the Indian spacecraft, the National Institute for Space Research, INPE, from Brazil, has been able to give due support to the mission in accordance with the international agreement. Furthermore both agencies expect to sign, in the near future, an operational document for the Brazilian receiving and processing of data from Indian remote sensing satellites.

Among the several initiatives in course with the German agency, DLR, special mention should be made of the project for the multi-application purpose synthetic aperture radar, MAPSAR, which, at the present moment, is at the stage of feasibility studies which should result in the joint development of a satellite.

The Brazilian Space Agency and CONAE from Argentina approved, in December, a joint programme establishing close cooperation in technological exchange in three areas of special interest and relevance for both countries related to satellite technology. Brazil and Argentina have also advanced in their cooperation towards the creation of an international space law centre which will contribute to the capacity building in space law in our region.

In June, the governments of Brazil and Venezuela have signed a framework agreement on space cooperation that gives new impetus to the bilateral relationship and offers additional opportunities for future undertakings.

Joint activities are being carried out by the space agencies of Brazil and Ukraine and the binational company, Alcantara Cyclone Space (ACS), created by a bilateral treaty signed in 2003 with a view at making possible the qualification flight of the Cyclone-4 launcher by 2010.

Brazil and China continue with their common endeavours towards the advancement of the CBERS programme, China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite. At present, both countries are engaged in joint development of CBERS-3 and 4, the next satellites of the series.

In 2008, in accordance with our policy of free access and distribution of satellite images for sustainable development, Brazil and China continued negotiations in technical evaluations for CBERS receptions in the Canary Islands in Spain, in South Africa, Nigeria and Egypt.

In March 2008, Brazil and the United States held technical talks on the possible conclusion of an instrument of cooperation between the Brazilian Space Agency and NASA on the Brazilian participation in the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) programme.

Just recently, in February, Brazil and Colombia signed an agreement on peaceful applications of space technology. This instrument should allow for the intensification of cooperation activities between the two countries in areas as wide as launching vehicles, satellites, capacity-building, earth observation, environmental monitoring as well as disaster management.

Mr. Chairman, as a founding member of COPUOS, Brazil attaches great importance to the work of this subcommittee not only because of what it has accomplished in nearly 50 years of history but also because of what it is still able to accomplish now and in the future of space activities. This subcommittee has contributed to the development of international space law of which the space treaties and principles are the most significant examples. The importance of such instruments becomes increasingly evident as space activities continue to grow in number and complexity.

This year has witnessed a number of events that demonstrates that, while the current instruments are a

valuable basis for the regulation of space activities, there is a pressing need for further development of international space law. Events such as the recent evacuation of the International Space Station because of risk of damage by a fragment less than a centimetre small as well as the collision between two large-scale satellites in a very important telecommunications orbit are but examples of dangers that, if not tackled in a timely and appropriate manner, will probably become even more frequent.

It is therefore with a sense of urgency and responsibility that the Brazilian delegation associates itself with those of several other countries which stressed the need to build upon the great achievements of this Legal Subcommittee. It should expand its activities, and the current legal framework that regulates space activities should expand and be improved, doing justice to the important milestone reached this year of a hundred ratifications to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

As already said on previous occasions, Brazil believes that such an important endeavour cannot take place without the contribution of this Legal Subcommittee.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Excellency, distinguished ambassador of Brazil for your statement that you have just presented. I have been very much surprised by a lot of agreements and contacts, that you have engaged with so many other countries in the field of international cooperation and bilateral cooperation. Also agreements that have been concluded during the visits of Heads of State, either foreign Heads of State or the Head of State of Brazil in some foreign countries.

This is really exceptional and I have to mention it and to emphasize it. I also listened with great interest about when you were speaking about the importance of the work of this Subcommittee, I appreciate it, indeed it is very important. Also that you said that there was a pressing need for further development of international space law on the basis of the Outer Space Treaty which reached, during this year, the one hundredth ratification.

Thank you very much once again and I also thank you for your kind words addressed to the Chair and of course to the Director of OOSA.

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

Mr. J. CHO (Republic of Korea). Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Korean delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your re-election as Chair of the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee. I have every confidence that this will be a productive session under your able leadership and it will benefit, in particular, from your long experiences and expertise in this field. I also appreciate the high quality documentation and other preparations for this meeting by the Office for Outer Space Affairs Secretariat.

Before addressing the topic of the session, I would like to express the anger and grief my delegation feels over the tragic acts of terrorism that were committed in Yemen this month. The Government of the Republic of Korea firmly maintains its position that terrorism, of any kind, can never be justified and once again resolutely condemns terrorism in any and all forms.

Mr. Chairman, during the last half century tremendous technological and scientific progress has been achieved in the field of outer space. Progress which has fuelled a rapid increase in space application activities in various sectors and facilitates the sharing of these benefits throughout the international community, now giving the least developed countries the benefits of space technologies can be observed thanks to the splendid international cooperation in this field such as the UN-SPIDER programme.

Space law, this has also experienced progressive development for the last 50 years, is now playing an important role providing essential foundation for space-related international cooperation. The number of State Parties to the four space treaties is steadily growing and my delegation hopes that the 1967 Outer Space Treaty will approach universal acceptance in the near future.

Deliberating national legislation on space-related activities can be cited as evidence of the development of the space law system in the international community. This body of legislation not only adopts the international instruments more effectively into domestic legal systems but also narrows the gap between the ever developing space activities on the one hand and the international legal system on the other. By sharing information on national legislation and ____ (?) harmonization, we can improve the legal framework of international cooperation on space activities and also guide our search for a possible consensus on the direction of the development of international space law.

As we strive to consensus however, we cannot ignore bilateral and regional agreements in the development of international space law regime. These legal instruments provide an essential foundation of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space.

Mr. Chairman, taking this opportunity, I would like to share with you the broad outlines of the progress Korea has achieved last year as well as its future plans in the field of space law and general space activities.

First of all, I am delighted to inform you that the first Korean space launch vehicle is scheduled for launch in the second half of this year from the Naro Space Center located on the southern tip of the Korean peninsula. The KSLV has been developed in close cooperation with the Russian Federation under the 2004 Korea/Russia Cooperation Agreement and in the 2006 Technical Safeguard Agreement and annexed protocol.

The Republic of Korea also maintains close relations with the United States on space activities. Last year the Korean Ministry of Education and Science signed a joint statement of intent on space cooperation with NASA and the current government is now endeavouring to deepen Korea/US cooperation in the field through activities such as the creation of the International Lunar Network.

At the national level, the Republic of Korea is a Party to the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention has enacted the Space Development Promotion Act and its regulations in November 2005. Under this Act, the Korean Government keeps a national registry of space objects in accordance with the Registration Convention. Last year the Korean Government informed UNOOSA of the maintenance of this registry.

As my delegation announced, at the forty-seventh session of the Legal Subcommittee, the Republic of Korea also enacted a Space Liability Act last year, the English version of the Korean Space Development Promotion Act and Space Liability Act are now available on the UNOOSA homepage.

Mr. Chairman, taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to inform you that preparations for the International Astronautical Congress 2009, to be held in Daejeon, Korea, in October 2009, are now well on the way. I hope that this event, which will be held under the theme, Space for Sustainable Peace and Progress, will be a stepping stone for the space

development history in Korea and international cooperation with many space-faring countries.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude by reiterating my Government's full commitment to the collective efforts of the international community to achieve a legal regime on outer space for the benefit of all mankind.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much distinguished representative of Korea for your statement on behalf of your country.

I concur with you to be very angry about the tragic acts of terrorism that were committed in Yemen this month and that we should resolutely condemn terrorism in any and all forms.

You have informed us about your position with regard to space legislation that is to international legislation, to the Outer Space Treaty and other United Nations treaties and also for the development of your national space law. In this respect, we particularly welcome that you have enacted the Space Development Promotion Act and its regulations in November 2005 and that you have established a national registry of space objects in accordance with the Registration Convention.

Also you enacted your Space Liability Act last year so this is evidence of major development in your national space law. You also emphasized the gap between the international space law and national space laws should be ____ (?) as much as possible so that the legal regulation of space activities could be strengthened and fully accomplished.

I had the opportunity to attend the session of the International Astronautical Federation last week in Paris and I could say that I witnessed a great interest and ____ (?) for the preparations for the 2009 International Astronautical Congress in Daejeon, Korea, and certainly many participants of this session will be interested to come to this important event that will be very well prepared by the hosting organization of Korea.

Thank you very much once again, I also thank you for your kind words that you addressed to the Office for Outer Space Affairs and its Director and myself. Thank you very much.

The next speaker on my list will be the distinguished representative of Algeria to whom I give the floor.

Mr. A. IOUNI (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*). Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I would like to say once again that the Algerian delegation is ever so satisfied to see you at the head of this Legal Subcommittee meeting of COPUOS and wish you the best for our work. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Mazlan Othman, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as all of her Office members for the excellent preparation and organization of the work for this session.

Mr. Chairman, our regular presence at the Legal Subcommittee sessions demonstrates our will to actively participate in consolidating the international legal framework within which all of outer space activities are being deployed, especially their applications in developing countries, and the strengthening of national capacities in the field of space law.

The Algerian Space Agency is very interested in monitoring the debates ongoing, at COPUOS level, within its two subcommittees. We are seeking to implement the objectives of our space agency through the mastery and the peaceful utilization of technology in space applications, the development of international cooperation with the partner agencies of countries having already acquired mastery of the above.

In this framework, a series of memoranda for framework agreements and contracts have been concluded with the institutions of various countries such as China, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, India, Korea, France and the United States. All of these bilateral agreements stress that it is necessary to allow the transfer of savoir faire and the development of national capacities in the field of space activities.

As concerns the definition and delimitation of outer space and the use of the geostationary orbit. Here the Algerian delegation is particularly interested in the development of the characteristics thereof, the utilization of the geostationary orbit, which is basically regulated by ITU and by COPUOS. The principle of the first come first served, as regards the allocation of orbital positions, is something that penalizes countries which wish to take advantage of the space activities but do not have the capacities to do that. We feel that it would be useful to envisage, within COPUOS and within its Legal Subcommittee, an initiative to set up a reform of the present regulatory activities as regards

the geostationary orbit in order to guarantee to all countries equitable access to that orbit. Such a reform would be possible since the progress of satellite technology enables for more positions to be available within the geostationary orbit.

As for item 4 of the agenda on the application of the five outer space treaties, I would like to recall that Algeria has ratified three of the main legal international instruments on outer space which are, the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects as well as the Convention on the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. As regards the latter, in the framework of the implementation of the international Convention on the Registration of Space Objects, a draft setting up a national registry registering such objects has been developed by our space agency in 2008 and has been submitted for the approval of the competent authorities.

As regards the stepping up of national capacities within the field of space law and its education, which is one of the priorities of our national space programme, our agency is working hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in order to introduce space law at post-graduate level in our university.

The year 2007 was the year in which the doctoral technologies school space applications was set up allowing for the competencies of our five Algerian universities to be properly ____ (?) for purposes of education research. Fifty students, at post-graduate level, were accommodated for 2007-2008.

Under item 11 on the general exchange of information on the peaceful use of outer space, our agency is sparing no effort to introduce and popularize space tool and its regulatory aspects at the various national outer space activities.

As concerns the draft protocol on international interests in mobile equipment and the space assets draft protocol, it is important that the nature of the public service interest be well served and recognized for the satellite systems of developing countries.

We would like to take this opportunity to repeat the importance that we attach to the work of this committee and to renew our support to strengthen space activities in developing countries in particular. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*). Thank you very much representative from

Algeria for that statement of yours, in the course of which, you have laid stress on the significant work taking place within the general sector of space law.

You have also, in particular, referred to the most important issues arising on a backdrop which deserve consideration during our session of the Legal Subcommittee. In one of those, when you referred to the issues of the definition and delimitation of outer space, your delegation made mention of the fact that you were particularly interested in the development of the characteristics of the geostationary orbit and the proper exploitation thereof. You have also made mention of the need to have a reform of the present regulations relating to the geostationary orbit so as to enable all countries equitable access to the aforementioned orbit.

You have also shared valuable information on the state of adherence of Algeria to the United Nations treaty relating to outer space and on your initiative as to the establishment of a national registry of space objects which has already been presented to the national competent authorities for their approval. You have also mentioned your adherence to the Rescue and Return of Astronauts and you have finally referred to several measures taken to step up national capacities in the field of outer space.

You have confirmed and reiterated the attachment of your country to the work done within the Legal Subcommittee and I would like to warmly thank you for all that. I would also thank you for your cordial expression of satisfaction with the work conducted by OOSA and Ms. Othman at its head.

The next speaker on my list of speakers is the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation, you have the floor.

Mr. V. TITUSHKIN (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*). Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, first of all the Russian Federation would like to convey its greetings to you, Professor Kopal. Your experience and unquestionable authority will certainly work for the success of the Legal Subcommittee and establish it as the principal international institution working for the progressive development of international outer space law.

Distinguished delegates, the Russian Federation is in favour of continued dialogue on all issues pertaining to international cooperation on outer space

exploration and use. COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee are the most reliable, proven institution that might best organize the debate with regard to outer space cooperation. The work of this Committee is a unique example of such cooperation, of seeking and finding generally acceptable solutions which is attested by the fact that, from its very inception, COPUOS has taken all its decisions exclusively on the basis of consensus.

As is well known, a firm international legal foundation was developed, under the auspices of the United Nations, to regulate most issues pertaining to outer space activities. However, life is moving on, the so-called 'cosmic club' or 'outer space club' is expanding, the number of States involved in space activities is growing, they initiate their own large-scale space programmes including putting spacecraft in orbit. In the various branches of the economy related to outer space a genuine technological revolution has been occurring. New technologies have arisen which make it possible to create space systems and spacecraft that are radically different from the traditional forms and methods used in outer space in the past. To quote an example, I can cite the new launch systems, aerospace objects, micro- and nano-satellites. The fact that space technology is becoming cheaper makes it more accessible to an ever-expanding range of consumers which again leads to a rising number of space-faring States. Also non-State structures, private sector companies and even individuals are increasingly playing a part. New forms and methods of cooperation are developing in the area of the peaceful uses of outer space both among States and among other actors.

Against this background however, one sees more and more clearly all the negative consequences that this stepping-up of space activities might trigger. The most obvious examples of such consequences is the issue of man-made contamination of outer space, space debris already mentioned by some delegations, there are questions to be addressed with regard to the registration of space objects. In the same context, a more profound study is called for of issues pertaining to liability for outer space activities, issues pertaining to the protection of intellectual property rights.

We are also concerned with attempts to militarize space activities, to use outer space for purposes that are incompatible with the United Nations treaties and the fundamental principles contained therein. Deploying weapons in outer space will inevitably have a negative impact on the peaceful outer space regime and the entire system of international security.

In this context we would like to draw the attention of delegates, once again, through the suggestion that an international treaty be developed to prevent the deployment of weapons in outer space, to prevent the use of force or the threat of force with regard to space objects. We believe that banning all deployment of all types of armaments in outer space and a comprehensive ban on any force or force-related activities using anti-satellite systems or other ways to affect space objects. Banning all such types of activity would be in the interest of all States regardless of whether or not they are members of the 'outer space club'. We must clearly realize that unless now, at present, we put firm barriers along the way for the militarization of outer space or the deployment of offensive arms in outer space, unless we do that, in future outer space may turn into an arena of unstoppable conflict and arms race and that, we are convinced, will not be in our common interest.

Mr. Chairman, obviously the legal basis that exists today is not adequate in terms of meeting the new challenges, new forms and ways of outer space activities and this gap makes it imperative that humankind should progressively develop international space law to raise the effectiveness and efficiency of the uses of space activities for the benefit of all States, to ensure sustainable social and economic development, international peace and security.

In the Legal Subcommittee's sessions we increasingly talk about the need to develop and adopt such measures that would adapt the international legal regime underlying the exploration and use of outer space to the requirements of the present time. In this context, we believe that the process of improving and, if necessary, revising key provisions of international outer space law must be comprehensive but stepwise. Therefore, we would like to draw the attention of delegations to the suggestion that a comprehensive United Nations convention on international space law be developed. That suggestion was first made by the delegation of the Russian Federation at the session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS in the year 2000. It was subsequently supported by a number of other delegations that are now co-sponsors. We believe that, within the framework of such an effort, we could find acceptable solutions to such issues that are actively debated within the Legal Subcommittee. For example, making space treaties universal, the issue of the delimitation and definition of outer space, space debris mitigation and a host of other issues. Such an international legal instrument would make it possible to address all aspects pertaining to space exploration and the use of space technologies in the context of a single whole. A holistic approach that would take into

account the interests of all participants in outer space activities, we call on all States to support this work.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and, to conclude, I would like you to know that the Russian delegation is prepared to take an active part in the discussion on every item of our agenda this session. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Russian*). I thank the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation for his statement.

In your statement, you have touched upon many issues pertaining to international cooperation in the space arena in terms of further developing outer space law. You emphasized the importance of the role played by the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space. You also emphasized the fact that, from its very inception, this Committee has taken its decisions on the basis of consensus.

You went on to dwell on some issues pertaining to the economic aspects of international cooperation. You mentioned that a genuine technological revolution is happening in outer space activities which is causing these major developments. Next you drew our attention to certain negative consequences of these developments particularly the issue of liability in outer space activities, the issue of the protection of intellectual property in outer space and others.

You further drew our attention to the danger of the militarization of outer space, you noted that the deployment of weapons in outer space would have a negative impact on the legal regime for the peaceful uses of outer space and the entire system of international security. In this context, you also drew our attention to the initiative that an international treaty be prepared on the prevention of the deployment of weapons in outer space and the non-use of force or threat of force with regard to space objects.

Furthermore, you mentioned the need to develop international space law in a comprehensive fashion making the most of the benefits of space activities for all States. You recalled the suggestion, made by your country back in 2000, with regard to a comprehensive outer space convention to be developed by the United Nations.

Once again thank you very much for your statement and also for the kind words addressed to the Chair and to the Subcommittee. Thank you.

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

Ms. N. ISMAIL (Malaysia). Thank you Mr. Chairman. Let me say that we are truly pleased to see you helming this Subcommittee again and we would like to also congratulate Dr. Mazlan Othman on a job well done in discharging the responsibilities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. Let me begin by mentioning some of the noteworthy events that have occurred in Malaysia since the last session of this Subcommittee and that we expect to occur this year.

I am pleased to announce that Malaysia will launch its satellite RazakSAT this April on a USA launcher Falcon-1 built and operated by the company Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX). There will be a dedicated launch from Kwajalein in the Republic of Marshall Islands. RazakSAT images will be used for forestry, fishery migration, security and other areas that would benefit the nation. RazakSAT spacecraft is a smart LEO satellite.

Mr. Chairman, Malaysia is a signatory to the Outer Space Treaty and the Rescue Agreement and is in the process of ratifying the said treaties. Malaysia is also currently studying the feasibility of acceding to the other three treaties. Hence, for this purpose, Malaysia has drafted ____ (?) intended to be a specific legislation to regulate outer space activities by Malaysia. Currently, consultations are being undertaken with the relevant stakeholders in order to finalize the bill. Malaysia is now in the process of drafting its space policy document which is expected to be completed by the end of 2009. The Malaysian space policy document will particularly give a strong support and act as a foundation for the advancement of the work on drafting of the Malaysian outer space bill which is targeted to be completed by 2010.

Mr. Chairman, a pragmatic approach for principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space should be adopted in order to formulate a new framework which can accommodate the new demands. Any review of the principles should be extensive in nature by including both the formal and substantial aspects of the principles. Malaysia is of the view that States making use of nuclear power sources should conduct their activities in full accordance with the principles to prevent any collision or accident that would endanger outer space as well as the Earth as there is a real risk that a collision between space debris and space objects with nuclear power sources would

cause serious damage. The use of nuclear power sources should be limited to deep space missions, in addition the necessary safety controls should be exercised in respect of such missions.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to item 8 of the agenda, examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. Malaysia is a Party to the Convention and Aircraft Protocol both instruments have come into force on 1 March 2006. In order to implement the Convention and the Aircraft Protocol, Malaysia has enacted the International Interests in Mobile Equipment Aircraft Act 2006, Act 659. ____ (?) that Malaysia becomes a party to the space assets protocol, after it is finalized, Malaysia should have its law in place with regard to space assets as the Convention does not allow for any revisions to be made.

Mr. Chairman, in matters relating to national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, it is understood that the population of debris is growing and the probability of collisions, that could lead to potential damage, will consequently increase. Therefore, we are of the view that implementation of some debris mitigation measures is a prudent and necessary step towards preserving the space environment for future generations. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you distinguished representative of Malaysia for your statement in which you informed us about the preparations to launch your own satellite in April and on the cooperation that you have developed for this particular purpose. Then you took position with regard to the main items on the agenda of the Subcommittee, particularly to the item 4, on status and application of the five treaties in which you informed us about the present status of the participation of Malaysia in these treaties and ____ (?) that are under preparation in this respect.

You also recommended to accept a pragmatic approach to other issues on the agenda and you also expressed your attitude with regard to the continuing efforts for the conclusion of a draft space protocol of UNIDROIT to the Capetown Convention.

Thank you once again and I now give the floor to the next speaker and it is the distinguished representative of Germany.

Mr. I. NIEMANN (Germany). Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the German delegation wishes to extend its gratitude to your able chairmanship of the Legal Subcommittee in 2008, we are looking forward to another fruitful meeting under your chairmanship. Furthermore, the German delegation would like to thank Ms. Mazlan Othman and all the staff of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for the work accomplished during the past year and for preparing this session.

Mr. Chairman, there is one single issue that has been mentioned by a number of delegations already, and that the German delegation would like to particularly stress, and that is the point of space debris mitigation. The German delegation noted with appreciation the adoption of the 2007 UNCOUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines. We also supported the adoption of single item 10 and part of general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures on this agenda of the Subcommittee.

We are all concerned with recent harmful orbital events that happened in 2008 and in the first few months of this year which reminded us that space debris is one of the major problems all space-faring nations are facing today. The German delegation is convinced that space debris mitigation is an issue that will stay with us and will become even more important in the future. The German delegation considers that the Legal Subcommittee is a forum well suited for the fruitful exchange on the approaches and legal mechanisms to mitigate space debris as they were devised in the different States and national and international space agencies.

In this connection, the German delegation wishes to announce that it will, under agenda item 10, give a presentation on the national mechanism the German Aerospace Center, DLR, has designed to deal with this issue.

Mr. Chairman, Germany, through its German Aerospace Center, DLR, is committed to a high standard of space debris mitigation in the interest of all space-faring nations now and in the future. We are looking forward to the discussions of the Subcommittee on this matter. Given the continuing and increasing importance of the problem for all space-faring nations, the German delegation could well imagine that the Legal Subcommittee discusses the issue on a permanent basis in the future.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you distinguished representative of Germany for your statement that was brief, but substantive.

Particularly you addressed the problem of space debris and consideration of legal aspects of this particular problem that is on our agenda for the first time at this year's session of the Subcommittee, this you did in the light of your conviction that space debris is one of the major problems all space-faring nations are facing today. I welcome, therefore, that you will make a presentation on the national mechanisms the German Aerospace Center has designed to deal with this issue during this session.

Finally, I would like to mention that you made a very important suggestion for the Legal Subcommittee that, given the continuing and increasing importance of the problem for all space-faring nations, the German delegation could well imagine that the Legal Subcommittee discusses the issue on a permanent basis in the future.

Thank you very much and thank you for your kind words addressed to the Director of the Office and all the staff members of the Office and to the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee. Thank you once again.

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

Mr. D. CODORNIU PUJALS (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*). Thank you Mr. Chairman. My delegation welcomes the fact that you are once again at the helm of our work for this forty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. We would like to reaffirm our willingness to contribute under your leadership to make sure that this is a successful session. We would like to take this opportunity also to express our gratitude to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in particular its Director, Madam Mazlan Othman, for the work accomplished throughout the year and also for the efforts to organize this session.

Mr. Chairman, Cuba believes that the development of outer space science and technology is of paramount importance to the future and the present of humankind. The services provided by these technologies for communications, climate studies, management of natural disasters, to cite just a few examples, demonstrate the necessity and the urgent need to make everything to maintain outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes. My delegation shares the view that the treaties and principles approved by the United Nations for outer space activities are an

important legal basis for the development of future peaceful space activities.

Having said that, we also believe that the need to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes calls for an update of international law so that it is made absolutely clear that all use of all types of weapons in that arena is banned. The danger of the arms race moving to the space arena is increasing with every passing day. New versions of star wars, with many misguided and very expensive plans, threaten not only the peaceful uses of outer space but also the very subsistence, the survival of the human race. In the opinion of my delegation nothing is more urgent, practical and important than the need to tackle this problem by all international bodies involved, including COPUOS. Apart from definitively resolving the issue of weapons in outer space, new measures and legal instruments currently being considered should provide the response to other topical issues such as the definition and delimitation of outer space, guarantees for the non-discriminatory use of the geostationary orbit, regulation of access to space by private entities, measures to reduce the danger linked to space debris or the ____ (?) use of nuclear power sources in space.

Mr. Chairman, very briefly let me draw upon other issues on the agenda of this meeting. My delegation would like to underscore the particular importance it attaches to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The lack of clear definition, at present, does not promote safety and confidence in the peaceful uses of outer space. In this regard, we hope to hear constructive proposals and that the discussions of the working group established for that purpose be successful.

Another important element which has not been totally resolved and requires continued attention on a priority basis is the geostationary orbit. A limited natural resource with *sui generis* characteristics which, every day, is more vulnerable to saturation and the use of that resource should be based on the principle of rational equitable access for all States taking into account, in particular, the needs of developing countries.

With regard to the issue of the nuclear power sources in outer space, my delegation is of the opinion that, in the light of the progress accomplished by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, it is necessary to review and revise the principles for the use of such power sources in outer space, to start working on a binding instrument that would guarantee responsible use of such power sources.

Mr. Chairman, Cuba reiterates its conviction that to maintain outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes is a paramount objective to guarantee a future for humankind. The efforts of COPUOS, and particularly this Subcommittee, to derive the maximum benefit from outer space for all of humanity are essential in this regard. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you distinguished representative of Cuba for your statement on behalf of your country in which you emphasized, particularly, the need for maintaining outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes. In this conjunction, you recommended an updating of space law with regard to the danger of introducing weapons into outer space. In order to tackle this particular problem it would be necessary to involve the interest and work of all international bodies including COPUOS in relation to these issues.

Finally, you commented a number of points on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. You particularly emphasized the need for definite progress in the issue of definition and delimitation of outer space and you drew our attention to the work of the working group on this issue in this respect.

Among other important points, you emphasized the need to discuss the status of the geostationary orbit in order to ensure rational and equitable access to this valuable part of outer space, in particular, with due regard to the needs of developing countries.

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

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

Mr. A. OTEPOLA (Nigeria). Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Nigerian delegation wishes to commend your efforts at chairing the meeting of this Subcommittee in a most effective manner. We also wish to thank Dr. Othman and her dedicated staff for the management of the affairs of the Office.

The Nigerian delegation wishes to emphasize the importance of the work of this Subcommittee which is aimed at properly guiding activities of States and other entities in the peaceful uses of outer space. Qualification of a set of principles and rules guiding activities of States and other entities in space have become imperative given the volume of activities and the consequences of such activities, both positive and harmful, to humans and the environment. In view of

the explicit mandate of the UN General Assembly to COPUOS to deliberate on international cooperation and the peaceful uses of outer space, it is the duty of this Subcommittee to respond to this challenge by putting in place a road map that will ensure the peaceful, safe, regulated and orderly use of outer space. We therefore need to continuously work towards the further involvement of such principles and rules which, if used over a period of time, can become the norm and eventually customary rule of international law.

In responding to this challenge we should not shy away from supporting the evolution of legally binding rules even in such areas as the use of nuclear power sources in outer space or space debris or the use of the geostationary orbit or the definition and delimitation of outer space. It is in this light that Nigeria commends the efforts of the various working groups in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee working on a set of principles and guidelines that would serve as a guide to activities in outer space. The outcome of the work of such groups can go a long way to assist COPUOS in codifying rules that will guide member States and other active entities in outer space.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria also believes that the existing five United Nations treaties on outer space have gone a long way to strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. It has helped so far to prevent uncoordinated or harmful activities in outer space. For this reason, member States including observers and other relevant entities which have not yet done so should, in the spirit of international cooperation, ratify these treaties.

It is also in this light that we appreciate the efforts of the International Institute for Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law for the symposium, held yesterday on the Moon Agreement, which provided more information on the usefulness of the treaty. At present, Nigeria has ratified four of the five UN treaties on outer space and the government is currently taking all necessary steps to present the ratified treaties to the National Assembly for domestication into our national laws.

Similarly, during the past year, the government has tabled before the National Assembly an act for the establishment of the national space research and development agency. This act is to give legal backing to the agency which was established by an executive order in 1999. The act, among other things, will ____ (?) all State activities in outer space in the agency. The agency will, in turn, regulate the activities of other entities in Nigeria in outer space.

A long-term plan for the activities of the agency in outer space is set out in Nigeria's space policy and programme. The document is a 25-year road map of how Nigeria will achieve its objectives of using space science and technology for the socio-economic development of the country. We are aware that the development of our space capabilities and, in fact, the growth and expansion of our space activities will require the strengthening of our body of rules and regulations as well as the thorough understanding of the legal implications of our actions and activities in outer space.

In order for Nigeria and other countries with similar experience to live up to their treaty obligations and understand the legal implications of their activities in space, there is a need for a thorough understanding and application of space law. Space law in comparison with other aspects of law is relatively new to many developing countries. Many of these countries also lack the necessary expertise to keep abreast of contemporary issues in space law. For these countries to keep pace with the legal aspects of their activities, it will be helpful for this committee to address, in a holistic manner, the need to give assistance in the form of general capacity-building so that this group of countries would be able to appreciate and fulfil their treaty obligations. We therefore look forward to the adoption of concrete decisions under the agenda item, capacity-building in space law, that will assist developing countries to keep abreast of legal issues including legal implications of their activities and other entities in outer space. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you distinguished representative of Nigeria for your statement on behalf of your country.

In your statement you brought a number of ideas that, indeed, deserve our consideration. For example, you have suggested to put in place a road map that will ensure the peaceful, safe, regulated and orderly use of outer space and this is important to ____ (?) which, if in use over a ____ (?) period of time, can become the norm and eventually customary rule of international law.

You then mentioned a number of issues that are included on our agenda and informed us about the present status of your own country with regard to the United Nations space treaties. You appreciated the symposium that has been held at this session of the Legal Subcommittee, namely it was yesterday, on the Moon Agreement which provided, as you said, more information on the usefulness of the treaty.

You then also mentioned that Nigeria, which has ratified four of the five United Nations treaties, is now undertaking steps to present the ratified treaties to the National Assembly for domestication, I understand for the transformation of these treaties, or the provisions of these treaties, into your national law.

Finally, you mentioned also that your government had tabled, before the National Assembly, an act for the establishment of a national space research and development agency and that, for already some time, Nigeria had its own space policy programme. Finally, you mentioned that for your country and other developing countries the ____ (?) of space law is relatively new and that therefore they should need some assistance in the form of training and capacity-building so that this group of countries will be able to appreciate and fulfil their treaty obligations. In this respect, you attached great significance to the consideration of the agenda item on capacity-building in space law. Thank you very much.

I now give the floor to the distinguished representative and ambassador of Chile, Raimundo González. Excellency you have the floor.

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*). Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I must say that it is indeed a double pleasure for us to see you at the podium here today, I had to overcome various police barrages to just get to this room. Before, delegation members were treated with more respect, now, one actually has to strip one's torso bare just to get into the room and this is a comment that has to be made publicly because I really believe that delegates should be given better treatment. I am happy to see you because I actually arrived in this room, that was a major feat indeed.

I would like to start off by an issue which, for my delegation, is of priority importance and this because for us the fact that there is a new agenda item, an agenda item having to do with remote observation is very important. Last year's seminar was held and, during that seminar, we tabled a document having to do with the legal consequences or implications of space technology application on the issue of climate change taking place in our world. As time went on, even though that lapse of time was relatively short, it was just one year long, global climate change and the food crisis have started really looming large on our horizons.

Within the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly this year, there was a food security debate that took place at the highest level, this was not a

parallel event this was a full-scale event within the Fourth Committee and yet this was held within the framework of the Outer Space Committee. During that debate we asked the chairman, who is not present here, I am referring to ambassador and friend from Argentina, we asked him to transmit to the Secretary-General the fact that it was necessary to ensure that this debate be pursued in another fora as well.

I was faced with a fairly surprising situation in my own country. In my country, for example, CEPAL was mandated by various organizations. CEPAL organized a seminar which is a follow-up of sorts to the Copenhagen seminar and, within that seminar, outer space technology was not at all dealt with. This contravenes the spirit and the letter of what was discussed within subcommittee and what was discussed within the committee itself. We have to remember what happened within the General Assembly and we have to bear in mind the sort of interaction that must systematically be deployed between this issue and outer space. I know that OOSA has redoubled efforts along these lines in that direction but I would really like to know, and please do give me this information, whether this information was really and truly transmitted to the Secretary-General as we requested. This is what I wish to say because I really believe that this must be borne in mind and be implemented in practice.

Within UNISPACE III this matter was already referred to. There is a resolution which is called the Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development and, within paragraph 1(b) of that resolution, we see that space applications must be exploited to further human security, the development and the wellbeing of all mankind. It was stated that it is necessary to adopt measures relating to telemedicine and to implement food security measures and, I would like to add, that from a purely legal point of view, we have to take measures to ensure the security of what we call world assets. Why am I talking about world assets here? Because there is a doctrine in this regard, a book that was published having to do with seminars on world heritage assets. Why am I mentioning it here? It is because this also relates to environmental conservation and protection. It states that there is a significant impact on the world climate and, it is in this regard, that we absolutely must have available to us all the tools and instruments which are necessary to protect the world environment, the world assets such as world peace and security. This is what is meant when one says world assets.

All of this relates to the Millennium Development Goals, this is why we need legal

instruments, they are a prerequisite if we wish to be truly able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and if we wish to effectively regulate all of the issues which I have referred to right now. We realize that there are problems, they are structural problems because there are certain facts. There are the principles of remote observation and these principles are lagging behind and I would challenge anyone in this room to state that these principles, which have been negotiated over 11 years, adopted in 1986, are relevant and topical and in tune with the times, they are not being effectively applied for the purposes of the Goals. We have to realize that this information is not made accessible to developing countries, there are paragraphs for example that say that as soon as information is available it must be disseminated and this really just does not happen.

Furthermore, we also have to consider space law, the development thereof. The trend is towards privatization, commercialization, which means that within space law the emphasis is starting to really be placed on the space-faring nations, on the so-called emerging space-faring nations, so there are very restrictive clauses which are being put in which means that information is not being transmitted properly and yet this information is of great importance for all of the countries of the world, developing included.

For Chile, for example, our national security considerations, cast our minds back to our past, when somebody talks about national security it is that there are efforts being made to block the transmission of certain pieces of information. From the purely legal point of view, when remote observation is referred to, as Brazil has referred to, much could be said about this. I am sure that my position is one shared by ever so many delegations and it is not a political stance or position, it is a legal stance, we must needs perforce settle this problem, regulate this problem and to do that we have to have tools, tools with which to fight the threats, the challenges, to world assets.

We simply do not understand that anyone can reasonably refer to success with regard to the guidelines on space debris. We just do not understand this! The absolute truth is that there have been so many accidents taking place. There is even one which had an impact on the ISS after all, the Iridium system was affected. There are ever so many other accidents which are just waiting to take place. Success, what success? There has been no progress, there has been a tiny little step forward, an inching forward, that is all and this was registered within the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We just have these principles here, these guidelines, and we have said that they should

have a direct link to what is taking place within the Legal Subcommittee and these principles then have to be transformed in a true General Assembly resolution. No one can reasonably state here, in my face, that accidents have not taken place. They have! These accidents are accidents which are under the legislation on outer space liability. We do not have a precise definition of what is even meant by space objects and, if we push the concept of interpretation here, I believe that we also should be able to say a space debris.

The applicable system as regards liability is the system which is to be found in the Liability Convention. We can also consider the debate taking place within the Commission on national law. There have been discussions based on this in 2006, 2008, we have started broaching the debate on illicit movements of objects, I think we can possibly speak about the various doctrines exploiting this or that kind of law but what we certainly can note is that there have been accidents and these accidents can become true disasters in any region of the world. This requires legislation, this necessarily has to do with the right to receive damages paid. There is a liability problem, not just in terms of actual monetary damages and that kind of liability but also moral liability as well. We must bear in mind the statute of the Court of Justice which states it is necessary for regulation on the basis of the principle of fairness.

We believe that this is a ____ (?) situation, it is a matter of urgency, we cannot conceive that the Legal Subcommittee could fail to pronounce upon the principles behind these problems, problems having to do with the security of individuals as well. After all, there is a mandate from UNISPACE III, this has been ratified within a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly and that had to do with the peaceful exploitation of outer space. In that resolution what did we see in the preambular paragraph of that resolution, very clear points are indicated and here I am referring to paragraph preambular 8, it says, convinced of the importance of the Millennium resolution and what is to be found in the Vienna Declaration as well. In that resolution there is reference to UNISPACE III, which was held here in Vienna. What does this mean? This means that this resolution is a resolution just like all other General Assembly resolutions which must needs be applied.

Then there is reference to what was done in Vienna, now it is practically ten years down the line, events have taken place during that period of time and this is a binding resolution so we have to reason on the basis of the new paradigm, the paradigm which relates to human security, the security of individuals which are

seriously affected by global problems. In more specific terms, reference needs to be made to the damages because of space objects and environmental problems. Canada, for example 87, was gravely affected when debris actually fell on its territory, a part of a Soviet satellite fell on Canadian territory says a delegate and I remember that there was significant damage and compensation paid and we would like to say, as concerns Canada, that we explicitly support the relations emerging with the Conference on Disarmament.

It has been years that we have been speaking about this, we cannot pretend that that Conference just simply does not exist. It has been a couple of years now that that Conference on Disarmament does not have an agenda but no one can really allege here that the issues on outer space are being dealt with there. That is not the case. They do not deal with that sort of thing. It is not for nothing that I have thought about this yesterday, it is not because I am a chronic insomniac, we just cannot confuse everything in all fora.

All the ambassadors participating in the disarmament conference are also working in New York. Three months they put in, in New York, and three months in Geneva and nonetheless no progress has been scored. There is no agenda. We must perforce recognize that given the present world crisis we must broach this issue here as well, we have to establish a thematic link and also a process link. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Conference on Disarmament must be linked because when you speak in terms of peaceful exploitation, can anyone legitimately say that there is no threat, there is no weaponization threat, how can you even wrap your mind around that! How can you possibly proceed to engage in a legal analysis if you do not have the information tools, the wherewithal to do that work. We also have to have that direct link to the Conference on Disarmament.

In consequence, we believe that if we wish to have this process be one crowned with success, how all delegations speaking will say that we are convinced that this session is going to be crowned with success. I am not sure it will be at all, I am not sure of anything. It is not your fault, Mr. Chairman, it is a matter of political will on the part of the member States. Will our work be crowned with success? Yes, if there is a direct link established to the disarmament conference. If we have a direct link to the fora which goes into the use of nuclear energy sources. In that case, our session will indeed be crowned with the aforementioned success. If that is done, we believe that it is a fundamental importance to adopt a new approach to remote

observation and, as the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation quite rightly said, we endorse what he said, we have done for several years now, we need perforce to revise certain outer space law clauses because some of these are quite simply outdated, they are obsolete and, given everything that I have just said and what we will continue to say within the framework of the session, I certainly do dearly hope that we will be able to make some progress. To score some progress with regards to achieving everything I have referred to here. In that case we will be crowned with success in our session and this on a backdrop of frustrating times which are difficult times for all us. Let us seek to avoid that frustration and to crown ourselves with success. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much distinguished ambassador of Chile for your statement which was, of course, full of interesting and important ideas that might encourage the Legal Subcommittee to deal with these issues because they are, indeed, important for countries.

You first concentrated on the issue of climate change, as you did already during the last session of the Subcommittee and in the special working group on new items to be included in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, and you now reiterated your suggestions and developed them further. You particularly mentioned the importance of space technology as a tool for measures to be done in the protection against the possible impact of the climate change.

You then used a very interesting term in your statement, namely, the world assets. It is a very interesting idea in my opinion and you emphasized that this also relates to environmental consideration, not only to maintaining of peace and developing international cooperation but also to this particular concern for environmental consideration. You also emphasized the need for information to be properly transmitted to all countries in this and other respects.

Then you turned our attention to the evaluation of the guidelines for mitigation of space debris and you have been rather sceptical about the importance of this particular ____ (?) and you also expressed your opinion in this respect there should be a link with ____ (?) of the Legal Subcommittee, as far as I understood it. You mentioned also some gaps existing in this connection in the Liability Convention and you also recommended that national legislation too should be, in this respect, developed.

Finally, you also drew our attention to the work of the Conference on Disarmament, on some particular features of this work, and you emphasized the need to have a better link between the work of the Conference on Disarmament and the work of COPUOS.

Finally, you also mentioned that there is a need for updating the rules of space law in the light of the present and new development of space activities and space technology. This is what I recorded in my notes, perhaps I omitted many things because it was, as I already said, full of ideas and suggestions.

I also thank you for your kind words that you addressed to all people here in the Chair at the beginning of your statement.

Thank you once again and I have still, on my list of speakers, the distinguished representative of Greece.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*). Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. First of all Mr. Chairman, let me congratulate you on your re-election on once again being at the helm of our Subcommittee and, through your kind intermediary, I would like to also thank other colleagues who approved my nomination as Chairman of the working group on agenda item 4.

Before sharing some general comments regarding the issues before us, very important issues I might add, I would like to re-emphasize the importance of the issue of control. Two years ago, some of us were under the impression that we were moving toward a "police state". My friend and colleague, the ambassador of Chile, has just said that he had to deal with three or four police checkpoints before getting here, this is unacceptable. I mean it is fine to have checkpoints but it is the conduct, the way it is handled. It is the first time in the history of the United Nations that we have this Chicago 1930s style swagger with pistols and being body searched. If there is a psychosis about the terrorist threats then we need psychiatrists rather than politicians to deal with this. This is unacceptable! They forget to say please and thank you, Sir or Madam. I do not think that representatives of sovereign States are, or should be treated as, potential terrorists and if these people need a psychiatrist's help, fine. There is a great story attached to this city, Vienna, the square named after Sigmund Freud is nearby, you can go to any hospital and get treatment if you need it. Indeed, this is too much, dear friends and colleagues, you will recall the important symbol in front of the United Nations headquarters building in New York, a gun twisted into a nut, you will recall the symbolic

sculpture which is as much to say no to weapons, no to police methods and we are talking about United Nations security, not Austrian police, who treat us as potential terrorists, unacceptable, I simply had to say this. Obviously this is in parentheses, but this is deplorable.

Yesterday, we had a symposium here co-organized by two research institutions on the matter of the agreement on the Moon. It was a very important and interesting discussion and it gave us a few challenges, if you will. It stimulated us to formulate ideas as to the future of international space law. What do I have to say in that context? For a long time now, I have expressed my preference for treating outer space as a unique ecosystem which needs to be protected. Protecting this ecosystem is our duty, the duty of the little humans on the little planet Earth who have strived to overcome the force of gravity and to launch themselves into outer space. As I said yesterday, we are really very little, we are tiny compared to the universe but the disasters, or the threat of disasters, that we trigger by conducting ourselves irresponsibly with regard to this ecosystem are huge in scale. Time was when the Iridium LLC company declared bankruptcy, if you will recall there were 63 satellites, if I recall correctly, which became overnight potential debris and the accident that happened just three or four weeks ago proves, once again, that the problem of management of these satellites, of space traffic, is as topical as ever. In the space activities, which have multiplied over the years in scale and diversity, there is one system of regulation, that is to say, the existing regulatory system is very limited on the one hand and even the limited system that is in place is not respected on the other hand. Thus, we are witnessing a fragmentation of international regulation efforts and a huge lacunae, huge gaps that need to be addressed in order that we might have a truly functioning *corpus juris spatialis* that is outer space law, a code of law, if you will.

Humankind is currently going through an economic crisis, it is a crisis of socialism, pardon me, capitalism, I do not know what it is a crisis of. What is important is that we are living through a major economic crisis and I wonder why all the many and varied fragmented national space activities are not happening in a way that would be subject to oversight to the auspices of a major international organization. We have some very striking examples, one of them is the International Space Station, a civilian station, a model that can and should be applied by all involved in space activities. Thus, what we need is an organization. Unfortunately, in the 50 years of outer space history, no specialized international body has emerged to fill that gap. In the era of telegraphy, 1937, the launching

of the telegraph apparatus coincided with the signing of the first bilateral convention between Prussia and Austria and, in 1965 in Paris, the first organization emerged to oversee telegraphic communications at the time and later it became the International Organization of Radio Telegraphy established in Berlin.

Now, after all these years, we still have just this Subcommittee and, of course, every country does what its heart desires, so to speak, there is no overall regulatory system in place. The former president of the French Republic, Mr. Chirac, once talking about the Monterrey Conference on the Financing for Development, referred to international public assets and my friend and colleague has already quoted that. These assets, and these are truly public assets, public wealth, must be guaranteed and preserved for the whole world, for all of humankind. We demand that all countries of the world accede to the existing treaty. Everyone has rights and duties, everyone is subject to that treaty, even though some of them may not know it but everyone must be a part of that treaty to be part of the global system regulating space activities, to distribute, in an equitable fashion, the benefits of space activities, now and in the future. That is why the so-called privatist approach that has prevailed over the years has not proved itself as a satisfactory approach at all. We need a different approach, a public service approach to these shared or common public assets because countries share their objectives to serve the public, their nations, their peoples, in this case humankind.

I am not going to talk about a common heritage, or whatever the current term, these are the interests, the real genuine interests of humans linked to the future development of outer space activities. That is why change of attitude is called for. We must preside over the further development of outer space law and space activities themselves from the point of view of this new correct approach and, more than ever, think about imposing strict, even severe, international regulatory norms on these activities. Outer space activities must serve humankind, we cannot allow a situation where the States become slaves of the private sector, it is the private sector that should serve the State not the other way around otherwise this process can lead to the destruction of the human race.

Think back to World War II, I am not going to cite those who, at the time, spoke about preparing the powder for achieving their objectives but which turned out to be a systematic attempt to destroy European and other nations. This is why it is necessary to take steps in that direction, toward an overall comprehensive system. We have the FCC system in the United States.

A model also, a regulatory model for the communications sphere, an exemplary model of how the State takes control of licensing and on following-up on its licensees to make sure that they observe the rules established. Why not have an FCC for outer space?

There you have it, Mr. Chairman, these are some of my general comments at this juncture and I will speak on other agenda items when we come to them. Thank you very much and, through you, please thank other colleagues from the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*). I thank the distinguished representative of Greece for his statement on our agenda under the item general exchange of views. I agree with what you said at the beginning of your statement. It seems to me as well that control measures, security checks here with regard to delegates are overstated, they go too far. I arrived this morning at 09:55 and was surprised because I was not allowed entry into the building even though I had to chair this session and I had all the documentation but I had to wait for a group of young people, visitors, to be processed and that took almost 15 minutes. Maybe something can be done to facilitate our access, delegates access, States representatives to United Nations committee sessions. In that regard I am fully in agreement with you.

You also touched upon a number of issues on our agenda, in particular the matter of protecting the ecosystem that is outer space, I believe that was the expression you used, I think it is a very appropriate expression. You also emphasized the fact that the management of space activities, the regulation of space activities has been very limited to date and not fully respected either. You also spoke of the need for a specialized agency to oversee space activities obviously a very topical, relevant idea but unfortunately, half a century later, we still do not have such an agency, run into legal issues in particular as well as scientific and technical. So today there is no such agency to oversee States activities in outer space. Finally, you said something very interesting when you referred to a speech of the former president of France, when he referred to international public assets, I do think this is very relevant for our discussion. Thank you once again, thank you also for your kind words addressed to the Chair of this session of the Subcommittee.

Ladies and gentlemen, I do not have any other delegation for presenting its statement but I have here two observers which applied for the discussion and I would like to give them, with your agreement, the

possibility to make such presentations on behalf of two important international and non-governmental organizations. The first one is the International Institute of Space Law which was one of the co-organizers of the symposium that was held yesterday. The President of IISL, Ms. Tanya Masson-Zwaan, has the floor.

Ms. MASSON-ZWAAN (International Institute of Space Law). Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Distinguished delegates, the International Institute of Space Law is pleased to present its report to the delegates of the Legal Subcommittee. As you will recall in 2008 the IISL was granted the status of permanent observer with COPUOS and its two subcommittees after having provided observers to the Legal Subcommittee on behalf of the International Astronautical Federation for many years. A written report has been made available to the delegates and today I would just like to highlight some of our past and future activities.

As regards 2008. In the 2008 session of the Legal Subcommittee and of COPUOS, several members participated as observers in the sessions and the Institute, together with the European Centre for Space Law, organized a two-day symposium for the members of the Legal Subcommittee on the topic: The Legal Implications of Space Applications for Global Climate Change. The papers presented at this symposium are available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and several of the papers will also be published in the proceedings of the IISL.

The 51st Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space was held in September-October 2008 in Glasgow, Scotland, and five sessions were held on that occasion. The topics addressed included, private international law regarding space activities, the 40th anniversary of the Rescue Agreement, weaponization of outer space in the light of article IV of the Outer Space Treaty, legal aspects of natural near-Earth objects, and other legal matters. A scientific legal round-table was held in Glasgow on the topic of paper satellites, problems of policy, regulation and economics and IISL also organized a plenary session in the Congress.

The world finals of the 17th Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition were also held in Glasgow and a case that was debated by the students concerned the continued provision of life-line satellite services to countries in the face of satellite operator insolvency. Preliminary rounds at regional level had been held in Europe with six teams, in North America

with nine teams and in the Asia-Pacific region with 39 teams. The finals were judged by members of the International Court of Justice in the Hague, as usual. The winner of the 2008 final round was the University of New South Wales, in Sydney, Australia, the University of Augsburg, in Germany, was the runner-up and Georgetown University, in the United States, was the second runner-up.

On 11 December 2008, the Institute organized, together with the National Centre for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law of the University of Mississippi and with a new partner, Ariane Espace Inc., the Third Eileen Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law. This was held at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. The topic this year was an elaboration of article VI of the Outer Space Treaty, issues and implementation, and it involved lawyers, space agency representatives as well as industry. Some of the papers will be published in the IISL proceedings as in the Journal of Space Law. The Fourth Eileen Galloway Symposium on Critical Issues in Space Law is planned for December 2009, again at the Cosmos Club.

At this current session of the Legal Subcommittee, yesterday, IISL and ECSL organized a symposium for the delegates that dealt with the 30th anniversary of the Moon Agreement, it looked at both retrospect and prospects. The symposium papers will be published on the OOSA website and will also be published in the IISL proceedings. Both the IISL and ECSL hope to be invited again to organize a symposium next year for this Subcommittee, possibly returning to the two-day format used in recent years at the request of delegations to the Subcommittee.

As was mentioned yesterday during the symposium, the IISL Board of Directors had adopted a statement at its recent meeting in Vienna on 22 March which was also relevant to the symposium. The statement was read during the symposium and was made available to delegates. In addition this statement, it is important to mention, has also been endorsed by the International Astronautical Federation, the International Academy of Astronautics and by COSPAR.

Next October 2009, IISL will celebrate its 52nd ISL Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space in Daejeon, South Korea and the following session topics will be addressed there. The first session is called Nandasiri Jasentuliyana Keynote Lecture on Space Law and 1st Young Scholars Session. In this session, Judge Vereshchetin, former member of the International Court of Justice, will deliver the first

inaugural Jasentuliyana lecture. The second part of this session will be dedicated to the space lawyers of the future as young scholars, under 45 years old, will be invited to present a paper on the topic Space Law - Future Challenges and Potential Solutions. The second session will deal with peace in space and will deal with legal measures concerning transparency and confidence-building measures among States involved in space activities.

Thirdly, third-party liability issues in commercial space activities will be addressed and will consider questions of third-party liability. The fourth session is entitled: Legal Mechanisms for Encouraging Space Commerce. It will consider both national and international measures that enable and foster or, on the other hand, constrain enterprise in space business.

The fifth session will deal with legal challenges to earth observation programmes with particular emphasis on developing countries and lastly, recent developments in space law will be addressed.

A scientific legal round-table will again be held in Daejeon and the topic will be: assessing commercial human space flight. The IISL has equally participated in some proposals for plenary sessions during the congress.

Of course, the World Finals of the 18th Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition will be held in Korea and the case concerns the deployment and use of force in low Earth orbit. Again, three judges from the International Court of Justice, including its president, have been invited to judge the finals and regional rounds will again be held in Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region.

Lastly, a brief word about our publications. The proceedings of our 50th Colloquium held in Hyderabad, India, have been published and the proceedings of the 51st Colloquium held in Glasgow will be published this summer.

A report of our Standing Committee on the Status of International Agreements will be published in our proceedings as well as on our website and we have, as usual, prepared material for the UN Annual Report of development in international cooperation in space law called 'Highlights in Space' published this year on a DVD and made available to delegates. In addition, the IISL continues to submit annual reports of its activities like the present one to UNCOPUOS.

In conclusion, IISL is honoured to cooperate with the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in the

further development of space law. The IISL recognizes that certain areas that may require legal regulation include technical issues and may need preparatory work that IISL might be able to carry out for the consideration of the Committee.

The IISL will be honoured to continue to be of assistance as such. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Madam President for your presentation, for the statement on behalf of the International Institute of Space Law which has had, for years now, the status of observer in the Committee and both its subcommittees. Thank you once again.

Now I give the floor to a representative of another international non-governmental organization that also has the status of observer to COPUOS and it is the Secretary-General of the International Academy of Astronautics.

Mr. J-M. CONTANT (International Academy of Astronautics). Dear Ambassador, Distinguished delegates, I would like to thank first the Director of the Office for Outer Space, Dr. Mazlan Othman and Professor Kopal, the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, on the proactive role to conduct the COPUOS meeting.

I just would like to say that I do not have time to make a technical presentation but just to illustrate my statement with a few slides.

The Academy will make an effort to contribute to the success of this meeting. As you know, the International Academy of Astronautics is an international community of leading experts, 1200 people. It was created in the 60s and the goal is to foster development of astronautics. The Academy undertakes a number of activities including recognition of outstanding contributors through election and award. It also facilitates professional communication and develops and promote new ideas and initiatives, engage the public and foster a sense of community among the members.

The International Academy of Astronautics is known for its traditional participation to the International Astronautical Congress where we routinely contribute one-third of the Congress paper and symposia. At this level, I would like to make a comment to what was said earlier by the Korean delegation. We already contributed to the preparation and advertising of this conference in Daejeon by participating recently to a space week in Seoul.

The Academy is much more than this contribution. It is an independent, non-governmental organization, 84 national bodies, established in the 60s at the time of the race to the Moon and recognized by the United Nations in 1996. We are an honorary society with an action agenda which covers a broad range of subjects. It was recently mentioned by the President of the International Institute of Space Law that we have a round-table together every year and this one was in Glasgow as mentioned.

We publish a periodic journal, namely *Acta Astronautica*, our members cooperate closely with space agencies, industry and the academic community to determine needs and objectives and help shaping policy and forge cooperation by means of studies.

We have nearly 40 studies under preparation and four studies have been published recently. I was pleased today to circulate some of the studies here at the meeting. Yesterday, one of our studies was presented and announced by Professor ____ (?) Hoffman and we have recently released a position study on nuclear space power, it is 250 pages and the fruit of five years of work. We circulated recently medical safety consideration, which is a space tourism study, three-year work. Psychology and Culture during Long-Duration Space Missions and this is a four-year work publication. We have, months ago, presented here at the Technical Subcommittee the preliminary result of the publication, which is not yet ____ (?) under publication, of a study on asteroids that threaten the Earth.

To contribute to IISL symposium on the Moon we have a few more subjects and, Mr. Chairman, the international scientific community and especially the International Academy of Astronautics have long been discussing the need to keep the far side of the Moon free of man-made radio frequencies. In fact the centre of the far side, I would mention the crater of Daedalus, is ideal to set up for future radio telescope to detect radio waves of all kind that are impossible to detect on Earth because of growing interference. Nobody, however, seems to have established a precise border for this circular region around the antipode of the Earth that should be protected from wild human exploitation when several nations will have reached the capability of easy travel to the Moon. In view of this unique feature we are working to propose that protected antipode circles be officially recognized by the United Nations as an international protected area where no radio contamination by humans will possibly take place, now and in the future, for the benefit of mankind.

The value of the Academy derives from its members. We are making all efforts to proactively identify a new generation of contributor and we also develop plans for having regular and stand-alone conferences. We have been having several of those conferences with a lot of new conferences. We have been for the first time in Africa, in Abuja, and at the end of the year we will return to Abuja. There were also conferences on space and society, we have one coming in Ukraine. We have a small satellite conference in Berlin to come. Next week, we co-sponsor a space debris conference in Darmstadt. I would like to mention that our effort in space debris was started at the end of the 80s and we published a study one year before UNCOPUOS started in 94 its IADC Committee on space debris. We also are having, in the future, a series of conferences. Here we have a list of those conferences and we would like to ensure, Mr. President, that the International Academy will remain proactive in contributing to the goal and programme that makes the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a very unique organization for the benefit of all nations.

We are mainly technical but with great care and with ____ (?) social science, that includes space law. We have great care for space law and we do that in cooperation with the International Institute of Space Law. We certainly endorse the position of the Canadian and Brazilian delegations. Most of our studies show that the time is right that we need ____ (?) toward a more powerful United Nations. I thank you for your attention.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much distinguished representative of the International Astronautical Federation, Secretary-General Jean-Michel Contant, for your statement on the activities of the International Academy of Astronautics. I believe that it has been very important to know about the programmes of the non-governmental organizations such as the International Academy of Astronautics or the International Institute of Space Law because they, indeed, undertake very important activities in the field of organizing the scientific and technical and legal communities for the benefit of the development of international cooperation in space.

I recognize now the distinguished representative of Chile.

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I believe that there is a slight divergence of view here with Greece because Greece is making use of the Mediterranean regime and that is not quite my territory, Mr. Chairman.

I have a doubt that comes to mind after what we have heard, 90 per cent of what was said by the last speaker has to do with scientific and technical issues. That speaker also spoke about everything that is being done but only in the developed countries, whereas in the Legal Subcommittee I wonder whether it is possible for us to also develop norms for developing countries as well. I have been able to see what was screened on those slides but, I must admit frankly that, for countries such as mine it is very difficult to acquire practical knowledge and, precisely within the Legal Subcommittee, would dearly have liked to know whether there are any practical projects concerning the development of legal norms. We have heard a statement here and I would like to know exactly what the practical impacts as relates to developing countries actually is. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Can you possibly repeat what you have said, distinguished delegate of Chile?

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ANINAT (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*) Indeed, there was a slight error in translation. I did not only refer to the practical aspects *per se*, I also added another sentence which I would like to repeat here. What are the effects and what are the legal norms which can result from what has been presented here in terms of developing nations and indeed, legal norms is something which must be laid stress on. Everything I say is of equal importance. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much distinguished representative of Chile for your contribution to the discussion and for the question that you have put at the end of your contribution. I only would like to ask, to whom this question was addressed? To the observers of IISL and IAA?

Perhaps, before giving the floor to you distinguished representative of Greece, I would ask the representative of IAA and possibly also IISL to provide an answer for the distinguished representative of Chile.

Mr. J-M. CONTANT (International Academy of Astronautics). Mr. Ambassador, I tried to make my statement as short as possible and maybe I have cut too much on my initial text that was circulated to the United Nations. We are, as I presented, organizing ____ (?) one of them is social science, so two-thirds of our community is scientific, that includes life science

which is another aspect of science but one is social science and, in social science, the highest number of members are space law and a sizeable number of IISL are also members of our organization. We are not focusing only on technical aspects but we gradually, for the last ten years, have understood that discussion of technical problems only was absolutely not sufficient and we have discovered that our technical exchanges and conferences have to include space law. I will just quote one example, last May, we had an ____ (?) conference on space tourism, the first conference of a large international organization, international I mean, there was already national meetings but international, on space tourism. It was well attended but we discovered that the President of IISL was attending the conference, as well as a lot of lawyers, and I would say nearly one-third of the discussion was devoted to space law and the lack of space law in the space tourism area. We are really trying to share and cooperate and illustrate by the round-table. This round-table was every second year now there are enough subjects to make it yearly and we are also building programmes for more cooperation so that space law is absolutely shared with our community.

I would like also to add one thing. We also were an international organization with a lot of history. The beginning of the organization was with Russia and America because the history of space was made by those two large countries and Russia and America are the largest number of members of our organization. Recently, I would say that ten years ago, we decided that we should not remain with the highly developed countries so we have developed, in cooperation with the United Nations, a lot of effort and we have been supported by the United Nations to go into other countries and we have developed and recruited new members in a lot of new countries. There were seven new countries at last year's election, that includes Kazakhstan or, I will not quote it but, we have a strong effort to Africa.

In the list of this year's meetings there are two meetings in Africa. We are really willing to do it. It may appear that Latin America is not listed and it is difficult to do the same thing at the same time but we have strong plans to also develop stronger activity in Latin America as exemplified by the recent nomination of a regional secretary for Mexico. This is my answer I can ____ (?). Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much Mr. Secretary-General of the International Academy of Astronautics for your reply relating to the question that was raised by the distinguished representative of Chile.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have exhausted the list of speakers for this morning relating to the general exchange of views. Is there any other delegation or observer that would wish to speak during this particular discussion. I see none and therefore we will continue our consideration of item 3, general exchange of views this afternoon.

I am sorry, I forgot to give the floor to you. Please, excuse me, you have the floor.

Mr. V. CASSAPOGLOU (Greece) (*interpretation from French*). Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Just one question if I might because my friend and colleague, the ambassador of Chile, has just indicated that there is a divergence of views that I had a Mediterranean approach that I espoused, if I correctly understood. I did not really understand what this divergence of views ____ (?). Possibly we should settle this in private.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much representative of Greece.

I understand there is no other speaker for this morning, consideration of the item, general exchange of views and we will continue our consideration of agenda item 3, general exchange of views this afternoon. In this respect I have already several speakers that applied for discussion on this item.

We should open the discussion on item 4, status and application of the five United Nations treaties in outer space and it was my intention to open this particular discussion but there remains only a few minutes for this morning's session and I do not have any application from among the delegations for consideration of this particular point. I would only like to remind delegates that this item will also be considered by the working group on item 4, of which our distinguished colleague from Greece should be chairman this year again as he was during last year's session.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will shortly adjourn this meeting of the Subcommittee but, before doing so, I would like to remind delegates of our schedule of work for this afternoon. We will meet promptly at 3 p.m. At that time we will continue our consideration of agenda item 3, general exchange of views. We will open the discussion on item 4, status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space and item 5, information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.

At the end of this afternoon's plenary meeting, the working group on item 4, chaired by Mr. Cassapoglou, will hold its first meeting. So, this is our programme for this afternoon.

This meeting is now adjourned until 3 p.m.

The meeting closed at 12:53 p.m.